



# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS—DOWNTOWN EDITION  
INCLUDING DUMBO

AWP/18 pages • Vol. 30, No. 41 • Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007 • FREE

## GRAFFITI GIRL GALORE

### DEFIANT TOT: I'LL TAG AGAIN!



Natalie Shea's life has been a whirlwind since The Brooklyn Paper told the world about how she received a city warning letter for "graffiti" on her front stoop.

Let's hear it for the girl! Natalie Shea, the 6-year-old who became an international media celebrity after the city sent her a warning letter about the chalk "graffiti" on her front stoop, defiantly scribbled more drawings this week after Saturday's rainstorm washed away the evidence of her original "crime."

"We just think the whole thing is ridiculous, and we're showing it," said Natalie's mom, Jen Pepperman, who, as the entire world knows now, received the city warning letter last week after a neighbor called 311 to rat out Natalie's use of sidewalk chalk — chalk! — to make the now-infamous drawing.

After The Brooklyn Paper put Natalie, her art and the warning letter on the front page last week, the story went global. All the local TV stations picked up the story, as did the Daily News, the BBC and the omnipresent Drudge Report.

"This created more controversy than the Bush wiretapping," said Natalie's father, George Shea, a public-relations expert. "The uproar has prompted me to suggest that she switch to scratchin', which is a far more durable art form."

As a result of this attention, The Brooklyn Paper Web site received several hundred thousand hits and hundreds of comments under the original story (which you can see at [http://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/30/40/30\\_40graffitigirl.html](http://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/30/40/30_40graffitigirl.html)). Virtually every comment backed Natalie's right to tag.

See GIRL on page 4

THE BROOKLYN  
ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman  
I WILL FOLLOW

## Yes, but is it art?



The Brooklyn Paper

Lost in the debate over the legalities of Natalie Shea's sidewalk chalk "graffiti" is the larger question of art and free expression. To help us determine the quality of Shea's skill as an artist, we asked Donna Moran, chairperson of Fine Arts at the Pratt Institute, for her

sharp-eyed appraisal.

Look out, Natalie, the critics are gunning for you! "Her 'graffiti' is exactly how children draw, especially with chalk on sidewalks," said Moran. "She has a nice sense of color and line, but it is impossible to tell if she is doing this with intent or just doing it."

which would be appropriate at her age. Graffiti is really something that often has social content to it — either internally or externally coming from where it is placed. Calling this child a graffiti artist is really pushing it." There you have it, folks. Natalie Shea ain't no artist.

— Gersh Kuntzman

## TALE OF 2 CITIES

### Newark arena closes key streets; Yards next?



Newark officials decided in secret to close streets around their glass-walled Prudential Center (left) to thwart a car-bombing. The move has opponents of Bruce Ratner's proposed glass-walled basketball arena (right) suspecting that similar street closings — in this case parts of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues — will occur in Brooklyn.

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Three days after Newark residents learned that two streets around that city's new glass-walled sports arena would be sealed off on game nights, residents near the Atlantic Yards footprint called on state officials to admit that the same frustrating

scenario will likely happen in the heart of Brooklyn.

The Frank Geely-designed arena that is a part of Bruce Ratner's \$4-billion mega-project bears striking similarities to Newark's Prudential Center — similarities that opponents seized off on Sunday's walkathon against the project.

"The Prudential arena is a wake-up call," said Jim Vogel of

the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods. "We cannot allow the security questions about the arena to continue unanswered."

Like the Prudential Center, Geely's "Barclays Center" sits at a major public transportation hub. And like the future home of the New Jersey Devils, the future Brooklyn Nets arena is lined on all sides with glass — which Newark officials have concluded makes it so tempting a terror target that they'll need to close two streets around the arena when games are being played.

If the same security protocol was put in place at Atlantic Yards, Dean Street — and parts of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, which also face the arena's glass walls — would be closed, causing major traffic disruptions.

"It's common sense that when the chief of police in Newark [closes] down two adjacent streets specifically for terrorism, the parallels are clear ... complete or partial street closures are already out-comes [in Brooklyn]," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develon Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

See SECURITY on page 4

## SPOILED FRUIT

### Rossman's hit for stiffing workers

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

One of Brooklyn's best-kept secrets for cheap fruits and vegetables may be forced to raise its stunning low prices after the Labor Department ordered it to pay nearly \$700,000 in back wages to workers who were not paid minimum wage and overtime.

Rossman Fruit and Vegetable, a warehouse-priced produce stand under the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway that attracts produce-hungry residents from Sunset Park as well as bargain-hungry Park Slopes, has already begun paying \$675,000 in back wages and interest to 222 employees, the Labor Department said this week.

According to the 2004 lawsuit, employees at Rossman Farm, which is at Third Avenue and 22nd Street, were overworked and underpaid — and when federal officials questioned the manage-

ment, they discovered that the fruit store did not keep accurate records of its employees' hours.

Federal law requires non-professional workers to be paid time-and-a-half for all hours above 40 per week, but there was no evidence that Rossman Farm was doing that.

"Now we know why they were able to charge such low prices!" said one regular Rossman's shopper, a Park Slope resident who declined to give her name because she says she intends to keep shopping at the store "despite the moral problem I have with them stiffing their workers."

Labor Department spokesman John Chavez would neither confirm nor deny a link between the low prices and the low wages, saying only that Rossman's owner, Nitzan Rozman, was up to date on his installment payments.

A man answering the phone at Rossman's told a Brooklyn Paper reporter that the owner was out of the country and could not be reached.



VEGETARIAN WEEK  
Special Section  
Eat your heart out around the bowl!  
Starting on p.11

## Gibran founder asks to run school

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

The founder and former principal of the city's first Arabic language and culture academy — who resigned over her failure to immediately condemn a T-shirt bearing the slogan "Infatada NYC" — will not get her job back, the Department of Education said this week.

Debbie Almontaser, who created the Khalil Gibran International Academy, said on Tuesday that she had submitted her application for the position of principal, which was filled on an interim basis following her resignation.

At a press conference — where she

read a prepared statement and refused to answer questions — Almontaser's attorney said she might sue.

But her job application is going straight into the circular file, an Education official said.

"In August, Ms. Almontaser said she resigned as principal ... to protect the stability of the school and give it 'the full opportunity to flourish,'" said Education spokesman David Cantor. "The Chancellor agreed with her decision, accepted her resignation, and now considers the matter closed."

Before her resignation, Almontaser ignited a firestorm after telling the New York Post that the word "infatada" —

well known to mean the Palestinian uprising against Israel — literally means "shaking off."

"That is the root word if you look it up in Arabic," she said. "I think it's a pretty much an opportunity for girls to express that they are part of New York City society ... and shaking off oppression."

The comment earned Almontaser intense criticism — and put an unwanted spotlight on the school, one of dozens of foreign-language academies in the city.

In her statement on Tuesday, Almontaser claimed the city threatened to kill the Gibran school, which she had worked on for two years, unless she stepped down.

"They should have said that the attacks upon me were utterly baseless," said Almontaser. "Instead, they forced me to issue an apology. And when the storm of hate continued, they forced me to resign." (Read the full text at [www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com).)

The "Infatada NYC" T-shirts were made by a women's arts organization that leased office space from a group on whose board Almontaser sits.

Almontaser eventually issued a more explicit condemnation of the T-shirt, but not before the teachers union and newspaper columnists blasted her for her remarks. Within days, she resigned.

In her statement on Tuesday, Almontaser said she was stepping down.

See GIBRAN on page 4



The Brooklyn Paper/Steve Cohen

## He is the walrus (Akituusaq, that is)

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

The public has spoken and it has said a mouthful: Akituusaq.

That's the new name of the baby walrus at the New York Aquarium, as selected by the 9,400 people who voted on the "Today" show Web site.

Is this any way to pick the name for the first son of Ayeveq, the aquarium's famously mustering walrus?

"We did it to get the public involved," said Aquarium spokesman Fran Hackett. "Since this is New York's first walrus baby, we wanted to get everyone talking about him." The name Akituusaq means "a gift given in return" in the Yupik language (which the walrus doesn't speak, by the way). It was chosen from a list of five names put forward by the Aquarium. It beat out Utvak ("ice cube") by a vote of 4,322 to 2,042. Those are

Regan-Mondale numbers. Utvak ("Earth") and Uluvak ("King Island") finished third and fourth. Hackett did make it clear that Aquarium staffers would have preferred the other names, but are willing to abide by the results of the election (unlike the Supreme Court in 2000). "We would have loved an easier name to pronounce, like Utvak, but Akituusaq is fine. We're calling him Aki for short."

Since making his debut on Sept. 27, the baby walrus (right) has poked up to 276 pounds and remains glued at the hip with his mom, Kulusiq. Indeed, he still has had no contact with his famously self-flagellating father, Ayeveq, who would regard him as competition for the ladies.

The good news is The Brooklyn Paper reported exclusively two weeks ago, Ayeveq is still a prodigious self-abuser — to the delight of Aquarium visitors.



By Mike Cohen for the Brooklyn Paper

## Buttressed up

Vicki Rovers shows her colors at the anti-war rally at Borough Hall on Saturday, Oct. 13.

## GOBBLE UP BIG TURKEY

Everyone loves Thanksgiving — except for the person who has to roast the turkey, boil the cranberries, bake the pecan pie and worry about the seating arrangements. We can't help you with the last one (except to advise you to separate your divorced friends' new spouses), but thanks to our first-ever "Big Turkey" contest, The Brooklyn Paper can help you get the meal to the table. Just send us your most-hilarious, most-disastrous, most-traumatic, most-exciting Thanksgiving story (strictly true stories, please!). We'll pick four winners, each of whom will receive a turkey dinner for 10 (with all the trimmings) from Jive Turkey in Fort Greene, six bottles of wine (the good stuff) from Greene Grape in Fort Greene, and a pie from Baked in Red Hook.

To enter, go to: [BrooklynPaper.com/Turkey](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Turkey).

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**The Brooklyn Paper**

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October 20, 2007

# HERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**SATURDAY**  
October 20

### A good Prospect

Tonight, the Prospect Park Alliance holds its 20th anniversary gala around the iconic carousel. Tickets for the black tie affair aren't cheap, but they benefit a good cause. Besides, you can more than make up for it at the silent auction.

6:30 pm in Prospect Park (enter park at Ocean and Flatbush avenues in Prospect Heights). \$350. For information, call (718) 965-9980 or visit [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org).

**SUNDAY**  
October 21

### 'Strides' right

Last year, over 10,000 people participated in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk in Prospect Park, an event that raised \$750,000. Join this year's walk, which begins at the band shell and goes about 3.4 miles, and help them break last year's record.

10 am at the Prospect Park band shell (enter park at Ocean and Flatbush avenues in Prospect Heights). \$13. For information, call (800) 227-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org/stridesonline](http://www.cancer.org/stridesonline).

**TUESDAY**  
October 23

### Suzuki rides again

Tonight, Williamsburg's Monkey Town, welcomes Domo Suzuki, formerly of 1970s German rock band Can, and his all-star band (featuring members of Gang Gang Dance and Psychic Ills). It's a rare chance to catch an intimate show with this avant-garde rock legend.

9:30 pm at Monkey Town (50 N. Third St. at Wythe Avenue, in Williamsburg). \$13. For information, call (718) 384-1369 or visit [www.monkeytownhq.com](http://www.monkeytownhq.com).

**WEDNESDAY**  
October 24

### Twin crowd

They won't wear matching outfits, but identical twins Paula Bernstein and Elyne Schein, who were separated at birth and raised in different households as part of a medical study, will read from their memoir, "Identical Strangers," tonight at the Park Slope Barnes and Noble.

7:30 pm at Barnes and Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope). Free. For information, call (718) 832-9066.

**FRIDAY**  
October 26

### Space place

Drop by the new location of the Brooklyn Frame Works Gallery to check out its current show, "Outer Space," which features sci-fi paraphernalia, antique prints and plenty of intergalactic art. Follow up your visit with a bout of stargazing, and you're in for a night that's truly out of this world.

11 am-7 pm at Brooklyn Frame Works Gallery (142 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope). Free. For information, call (718) 399-6613.

## THE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SAT, OCT 20**

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**CONY ISLAND TOUR:** Visit Cony Island and beyond during this shorefront and park walk. \$3, 10 am. Meet at Nathan's, Cony Island. (718) 438-2442.

**HOUSE TOUR:** Self-guided walk of several brownstones of Bedford Stuyvesant. \$20, 11 am to 4 pm. Starting point is Boys' High, Mary Avenue between Putnam and Madison streets. For information (718) 574-1779.

**LULLWATER EXPLORATION:** Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. Binoculars provided. \$10, \$6 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

**WEEKSVILLE TOUR:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of the area known as Weeksville and its historical significance. \$13, \$10 members, \$8 seniors and students. Additional \$5 admission fee for house tour. 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Meet in front of Boys and Girls High School, Fulton Street and Stuyvesant Avenue. (718) 788-8500.

**BIRDWATCHING CRUISE:** Learn about the history of Prospect Park, from prehistoric times to the present day, while touring one of Prospect Park's most scenic habitats. \$10, \$6 kids, 11:15 am to 2 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

### PERFORMANCE

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM:** presents The St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble in an all-day program. 2 pm, 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 594-0100.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents "Unplugged in Red Hook" concert with Valerie Tinkla, classical pianist. Program includes works by Chopin, Mozart, Beethoven and Alban Berg. 3 pm, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 594-2504. Free.

**PAPER MOON PLAYERS:** presents "Music of the Night," a five-person musical revue. Production includes songs from Broadway shows. \$12, \$30 pm and 8 pm. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 2635 E. 23rd St., between Voorhes Avenue and Avenue Z. (718) 377-1342.

**HIGH SCHOOL PLAY:** Faculty and alumni of Bay Ridge Ford HS presents "The Front Page." 7 pm, 500 19th St. (718) 340-2510.

**DANCE FEST:** White Wave presents Wave Rising Series including Isabel Godwinson and Friends. \$20, 4 pm. Also, "Portables, Walked." \$20, 7:30 pm. John Ryan Theater, 25 Jay St. (212) 868-4444.

**NEXT WAVE:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Compania Nacional de Danza," with choreography by Juha Oksa. \$20 to \$60, 7:30 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 438-4100.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a classical music concert featuring work by Beethoven. \$50, \$25 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, 614 Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**SPACE GRANT SHOWCASE:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents new work by Carrie Alem, Abigail Brodsky and Chris Noe. \$15, \$8 low income. 8 pm, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

**FACULTY SHOWCASE:** Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents Doug Booth and Digital Soul. \$10, \$5 students and seniors. 8 pm. 38 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

**RIDGE REPERTORY:** presents "To Gillian On Her 27th Birthday." \$18, 8 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center, Fourth Avenue and 81st Street. (718) 836-3103.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Yank! A New Musical." \$18, \$14 children and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (212) 302-3105.

**SUN, OCT 21**

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BIKE TOUR:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment offers a tour of New Moon Creek. Learn about the history, pollution and health of this area. Vendors around the creek to discuss the industrial heritage of steel, combined sewage overflows and the ecosystem. 1 pm to 3 pm. Meet at Manhattan Avenue and Ash Street. (718) 788-8500. Free.

**PERFORMANCE**

**BCBC:** Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts presents Tony Berlin's "I Love a Piano." Program offers a nostalgic musical journey over seven decades of American history. \$25, 3 pm. Walt Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra presents a program featuring George Enescu's "Rumanian Rhapsody" and Brahms' "Piano Quartet." \$15, children free. 3 pm. St. Ann's Church, corner of Clinton and Montague streets. For information, visit [www.brooklynsymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.brooklynsymphonyorchestra.org).

**ONE ACT PLAY:** The Jockey Theater presents Sam Shepard's "The Holy Ghostly." \$10, 3 pm. 315 Columbia St. (718) 395-3214.

**OPERA:** Brooklyn Repertory Opera presents a production of Beethoven's "Fidelio," performed with full orchestra. Beethoven's only opera was a commentary on current events in Europe in his time. \$20, \$10 seniors and students. 4 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 857-4810.

**DANCE FEST:** Wave Rising Series. "Portables Walked." 4 pm. 25 Jay St. See Oct. 20.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Yank! A New Musical." 3 pm. See Oct. 20.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a classical music concert. 4 pm. See Oct. 20.

**RIDGE REPERTORY:** "To Gillian On Her 27th Birthday." 5 pm. See Oct. 20.

**OTHER**

**ISRAEL TALK:** Institute for Living Judaism and Hachashd Brooklyn Region host a workshop, "Can We Talk About Israel?" Panels moderated by Leonard Lopate and Larry Josephson. \$25 includes light breakfast and lunch. 9 am to 4 pm. East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Ave. (718) 339-0230.

**NEW YORK CARES:** 16th annual community service event. 44 public schools in Brooklyn take part in this day of revitalization. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. [www.ycare.org](http://www.ycare.org).

**CANCER WALK:** American Cancer Society hosts a Make Strides Against Breast Cancer. 3.5-mile walk takes place in Prospect Park. Registration at 10 am; opening ceremony at 11 am; walk starts at 11:15 am. Prospect.

See 9 DAYS on page 16

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2007

## The Brooklyn Paper

brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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**BAY RIDGE:** Bay Ridge Paper, BoroPark Paper.

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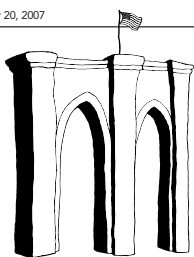
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# THE STOOP

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

## Eating veg is good. Where?

It might be Brooklyn vegetarian week, but for Heights herbivores it's just another week of slim pickings.

A flyer for "Brooklyn Goes Veg" week says the goal is to "dispel rumors that vegetarian food is not palatable."

Sounds good, but in our neighborhood it's not easy to find such tasty treats. Indeed, there are simply no vegetarian restaurants.

As a recent convert back to the dark omnivore side, I can still remember how mouth-watering a serving of tofufury and mashed sweet potatoes can be. Especially in comparison to yet another plate of spaghetti and tomato sauce — a common defacto restaurant meal.

The most-recent blow to the neighborhood's vegetarian community was when Greens Restaurant on Montague and Henry Streets — known for its unique mishmash of Chinese, kosher and vegetarian fare — closed this summer.

The restaurant dished up the perfect fix for "meat"-craving vegetarians, with creative choices like spicy shredded Steamed soy protein and red "sausage."

"It was a real restaurant and the father did a lot of cooking," said Allison Nichols, general manager of Perelandra, a health food market on Remsen Street between Clinton and Court streets. "He got too sick, so the family had to hand it over."

Nichols said its replacement, the Singapore Grill, is intending to serve a hearty proportion of vegetables. But it won't recreate the faux meat treats of the Greens.

Without a sole vegetarian option, people are forced to turn to the next best thing.

Siggy's Good Food, on Henry Street near Cranberry Street, is geared towards organic, healthy options, but also serves turkey and one hell of a steak sandwich.

Not a bad thing, per se, just not as appealing to devout grass grazers. "I go to Siggy's when I want to eat out," said LeAnn Wong, a vegan who dreams of more upscale options. "That's pretty sad."

The building's sadder is the vegetarian options at most restaurants.

"It's just ridiculous that everyone assumes vegetarians should be fine eating nuts, hard beans and salad all the time," said Laurin Ginsberg, a vegetarian of 14 years. "Well-prepared vegetarian food is actually flavorful. But most people aren't interested."

The lack of dining options has forced Ginsberg to buy the majority of her meals at Perelandra.

"For people who eat soy and meat alternatives, we have so much stuff, like deli slices, roses, un-chicken wraps and kabob skewers," said Nichols, adding that Perelandra serves several hundred people — not all of them vegetarians, of course — every day from their deli.

"Everything is made from scratch. They eat it simply because it's good," she said.

And isn't food being "good" the whole point? But what about the poor vegetarian who has already eaten the red quinoa tabouli from Siggy's 5,000 times? "I'm going into Manhattan more and more to go out to eat," said Nichols. "And I wish I didn't have to."

Juliana Bunin is a writer living in Brooklyn Heights.

## HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



Juliana Bunin

## Inconvenience pays

### Movie crew tosses dough around Heights

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Who said Hollywood types are heartless: after turning Brooklyn Heights into their own back lot, the Coen Brothers have started spreading some major green throughout the neighborhood.

This is our way of giving back, so that people understand that we're not taking advantage," said Amanda Foley, location manager for Ethan and Joel Coen's mystery, "Burn After Reading," which brought George Clooney, Brad Pitt, John Malkovich, Frances McDormand and other stars to Clark, Hicks and State streets.

The Brooklyn Heights Association got the biggest hunk of largesse, taking in \$10,000 from the big-screen brothers.

"When movies and film crews come to Brooklyn Heights they don't always reach out to us, so I was nice that 'Burn After Reading' came to us first. We're grateful for their generous gift," said Brooklyn Heights Association Executive Director Judy Stanton.

Stanton said the board might decide to use a portion of the gift to expand and update its guide to the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.

Other beneficiaries of the Coen Brothers' generosity include the HOPE Program, a South Street charity that helps disadvantaged and chronically unemployed people find jobs (which got \$2,000); the St. Francis College scholarship fund (\$1,000); PS 8 (\$1,000); and the State Street Block Association (\$1,000).

Foley said the production also wanted to send \$1,000 to Community Board 2, but the board would rather pass that along to a deserving charity — so they're trying to decide who will get their gift.

The film is set in Georgetown, yet it crowded Heights streets for two weeks.



One man's set is another neighborhood's block. But now the Coen Brothers are paying local groups for the privilege of turning Brooklyn Heights into a backlot.

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## Soul food to Gage & Tollner site

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Amy Ruth's, a Harlem soul food restaurant known for a fried chicken-and-waffles dish named after Al Sharpton, will open a second location at the landmark Gage & Tollner site on the Fulton Mall.

The Harlem restaurant has only been around for nine years, but it will be moving into a space that was occupied by the celebrated Gage & Tollner from the 1890s until it closed in 2004.

The building's exterior and its magnificent dining room, with its mahogany tables, cherry-framed mirrors and 19th-century gas lamps, are protected city landmarks. Even T.G.I. Friday's, which briefly occupied the space after Gage & Tollner closed, did not dramatically alter the historic surroundings.

And Michael Vann, chief operating officer and general manager for the Morning Star Restaurant Group, was pleased about that.

"We believe the historical landmark matches what we do in Harlem perfectly," Vann told The Brooklyn Paper.

Amy Ruth's has been eyeballing Gage & Tollner since T.G.I. Friday's closed about a year ago, said Robert F. Hebron IV, who brokered the lease between the restaurant and the owner of the building, which is between Smith and Pearl streets.

"I believed very passionately in the relationship between the restaurant and that site," Hebron said. "It's almost a renaissance of what used to be."

Indeed, when Edna Lewis, a celebrated southern cook, took over the Gage & Tollner kitchen in the late 1980s, she put soul food front and center, introducing customers

to mullery corn pudding, pan-fried catfish and she-crab soup.

The Amy Ruth's menu — which features dishes named after black political, social and church leaders — is not the only thing that will make it successful where T.G.I. Friday's was not, said Joe Chan, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership.

"Success will be a cinch [for] Amy Ruth's," said Chan. "The mall attracts 100,000 shoppers a day in an area with 100,000 office workers ... and 225,000 residents."

The plans for the Brooklyn Amy Ruth's are under wraps, but Hebron did promise that the Rev. Al Sharpton's favorite dish would be on the menu on Fulton Street.

"You'll be able to get fried chicken and waffles and all the other things you can get at Amy Ruth's in Harlem," the broker said.

## The Great Green Way in DUMBO

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Galapagos Art Space — that hipster haven that has been Williamsburg's home for outdoor performance art since 2003 — is moving to DUMBO next year, and when it does, it's going green.

Its new location on Main Street will be the first performing arts space in the nation recognized by the Green Building Council for its energy efficient, environmentally friendly design.

Natural gas will power the spotlights, the sound system and the rest of the electrical appliances in the building. That means it will be off the city's electrical grid entirely (though fossil fuel, albeit the cleaner-burning natural gas, will still be used).

Recycled rainwater will flush through the building's toilets and flow through its sinks (though drinking water, fortunately, will still come from city pipes). And the roof itself will



The new home of Galapagos Art Space, on Main Street in DUMBO, will be green.

be transformed into an urban meadow with trees, local grasses and flowers.

More than 50 Brooklyn projects — including 15 buildings in the Atlantic Yards project — have registered for the Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, including a planned 358-unit, market-rate

and unusual puppeteers.

"In Williamsburg, we've had to add commercial programming, like DJs and bands that play until 2 a.m., just to sustain ourselves," Galapagos Director Robert Elmes told The Brooklyn Paper.

"By building a green and energy-efficient building, we can produce more of the kind of non-commercial work that otherwise wouldn't be able to find a home in New York City because we'll be saving so much on our energy costs."

Elmes said the art space started looking for new digs earlier this year. Before they found a spot at 16 Main St., just down the block from St. Ann's Warehouse and powerHouse arena, they were ready to quit the city — and the country — altogether.

"We were half-packed to go to Berlin," Elmes told The Brooklyn Paper. "We didn't see how we could survive in New York."

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# THE STOOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL RED HOOK

## Gripping tale at robbed bar

**T**he man with a scorpion tattoo has been robbed — and a reign of terror at Red Hook bars has, cops believe, been ended thanks to the arrest of 20-year-old Luis Rodriguez on Monday.

But the collar never would have happened without the quick-thinking and bravery of a friend of mine, who harkens at the Bait and Tackle bar.

Here's how it all went down — according to cops and my friend, the star witness.

On Monday, around the 3 a.m. closing time at the Bait and Tackle, the man police identified as Rodriguez and a woman entered and ordered shots of tequila and lime.

Regulars — and there were a handful around the U-shaped bar with the taxidermy horse head — were uneasy, but it took a second before they realized why: Rodriguez bore an uncanny resemblance to the "Wanted" poster hanging near the bar — a warning sign that referred to Rodriguez's alleged past crimes: a Sept. 23 robbery at the Bait and Tackle and a Sept. 30 robbery of nearby Moonshine.

Could it be that he had returned to the scene of the first robbery to brazenly order tequila? And with a date, no less?

My friend the bartender, usually a loudmouth, wasn't taking any chances: he quietly told a friend to go outside and call the police on his cellphone.

But while the man was outside calling police, Rodriguez got up from the bar, leaving a \$2 tip next to his empty shot glass.

The bar's customers breathed hard as Rodriguez made for the door, wondering if he was carrying a weapon again, like the time he allegedly robbed this very same drinking establishment.

Indeed, he looked like he was carrying something under his shirt, my friend said.

In that instant, he looked around and wondered what he could grab to defend himself, or anyone else in case he needed to.

With Rodriguez outside, my friend and a few customers pulled down the bar's metal gate and called cops again. They wanted to keep the bar safe from violence they suspected could break out at any moment.

Police finally caught Rodriguez a short while later, hiding under a parked car on desolate Inlay Street a block from the Van Brunt Street watering hole. Warning barks from the guard dogs that watch over the street's vacant warehouses had helped lead the police to the suspect.

A second suspect in the armed robberies remains at large, police said.

The police, however, aren't the only people who can fight crime in Red Hook. The man who robbed the Bait and Tackle and Moonshine did so because he knew the neighborhood's sparsely populated, dark streets could shield him. If we want crime to subside on our streets, the number of people here must grow. Of course, that's a Catch-22 in a neighborhood that's constantly trying to bridge its gritty past and glitzy future.

Which vision will win out? The jury — ours and Rodriguez's — is still out.

*Ariella Cohen is a freelance writer.*

**THE KITCHEN SINK**

After 10 years of waiting, **PS 261** on Pacific Street has a new playground that is open for romping around. It's between Smith and Hoyt streets. ... Our pals at **South Brooklyn Legal Services** have been defending victims of housing discrimination for years — and now they've won a federal grant that'll keep them fighting on. Congrats to the gang. ... The **Gowanus Chorale** is looking for a few good voices. Stop by their rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and sing your heart out at the **Gowanus Community Center** (420 Baltic St., between Hoyt and Bond streets). ... Gowanus and "fresh produce" were three words we never thought would attract a crowd, but last Sunday's **Gowanus Harvest Festival** on Carroll Street at the bank of the fetid, gonorrhea-laced canal was a hit.

Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com).

**Correction**

In last week's article about a boarded-up building at 572 Pacific St. ("Former flophouse on the market again," Oct. 13), we gave the incorrect name of James Vogel's neighborhood group, it is the East Pacific Block Association. We also should have said the block association's agreement with the city to keep the building as a residence rather than a city facility was made in 2001, before the city tried to create a halfway house at the site. The Brooklyn Paper regrets the error.

### BROOKLYN SOUTH



Ariella Cohen



Ouch (times two): The Jikishinkan Dojo is about to be evicted from its Smith Street home of 20 years. Here, Stewart Johnson (black pants) gets thrown to the mat by his student, David Gravens.

## Smith Street dojo's got to go

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A 15-year-old martial arts school is being forced out of its Smith Street location by the end of the year, because its small operation can no longer afford one of Brooklyn's hottest commercial corridors.

No one could have imagined being priced out of Smith Street in 1992, when Jikishinkan Akido Dōjo opened. In those days, there was a real need for a black belt on Smith Street, but today, with gritty old Smith all spruced up with restaurants and shops, a tour book is indispensable instead.

"I knew the neighborhood had changed when I was going to the dojo and I got

stopped by two German tourists with a Zagat guide asking me for directions to the Grocery," said Stewart Johnson, president of the dojo's board of directors.

Jikishinkan lasted this long in the new Cobble Hill with the help of its supportive landlord, Vincent Muzzone, who kept it afloat for years by charging far less than the market rate for the space at 211 Smith St., which is between Baltic and Butler streets.

But Muzzone, a local figure who owns a hardware store on Court Street that recently won a "good service" award from Time Out New York, informed the board of directors that he would have to double their rent beginning on Jan. 1.

"He's making it clear that he has to get to economic reality with that rent," said Johnson, who said he was not angry about the rent hike.

But forced to choose between raising prices for its 55 members and looking for new space, the board opted for the latter.

The good news is that the dojo will run its classes in a nearby school, although the exact site remains to be determined. And, eventually, Johnson hopes to find a new home for his school and its 55 dues-paying members.

For Josh Paul, a member for several years, the location is irrelevant. "This is home, no matter where it is," he said.

## Two Trees: All win with our bldg

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Neighborhood enhancement or a precedent-setting event that could destroy decades' worth of historic preservation — you decide:

Two Trees Management, a DUMBO-based development company, has asked the city to bend local zoning rules to allow it to construct a building on Atlantic Avenue that is 10 feet taller than the current zoning in the Cobble Hill Historic District.

The resulting building, which is on the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Court and Henry streets, would also be wider and deeper than current codes allow.

In exchange, the rental apartments in the proposed building would give Two Trees the money it needs to maintain the Two Trees-owned Independence Bank, the landmark building next door where Trader Joe's will open a supermarket next year.

Opponents said Two Trees is required to maintain the historic building, whether it gets its variance or not.

"I don't get city compensation to maintain my property, nor does anyone else in a historic district," snarled Irene Janer of the Brooklyn Heights Association.

But company spokesman Jed



Walentas, son of the company patriarch, David Walentas, called the request for a variance "very meritorious" because "it will put the landmark building into a long-term state of good repair and it creates a little bit of rental housing on what is currently a vacant parking lot."

To get the zoning variance, Two Trees needs the support of the City Council, which may take up the issue on Tuesday.

But the Council would have to

accept the company's assertion that the project will actually benefit the historic district.

Opponents fear that if the Walentases succeed, historic districts will be undermined forever. Indeed, the 50-foot limit has never been waived in the Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill historic districts.

"It's not just about 10 feet in Cobble Hill; it's about whether we can preserve our historic neighborhoods everywhere,"

said Jeff Strabone, a member of Community Board 6.

So far, the land-use review process — a multi-step procedure that begins with an advisory vote by the community board — has gone well for Two Trees. After CB 6 rejected it, the project was backed by Councilman Bill De Blasio (D-Cobble Hill), Borough President Markowitz and the City Planning Commission.

Markowitz, however, denied the request to build above 50 feet.

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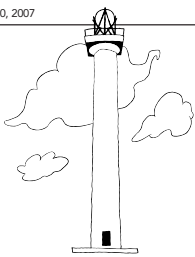
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# THE STOOP

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

## Model'lord is tenant tough

**O**h, irony of ironies. A building owned by one of the city's best known tenants' rights organizations is riven with peeling paint, broken locks and apartments with no heat in winter, according to residents who accuse the organization of perpetrating the same kind of neglect for which it attacks other landlords.

The Pratt Area Community Council, a decades-old housing organization based in Fort Greene, owns and manages 57 buildings, one of them a six-story, 36-unit rent-subsidized building at Gates and Franklin avenues, on the border of Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

This is the same building the state's Energy Research and Development Authority leased in 2005 as "setting new standards in energy efficiency," and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce cited in May as a paradigm of good affordable housing.

If only they'd spoken with the residents, who complain of a litany of problems, from buckling plaster covered in a mold-like substance to leaky ceilings and peeling paint. But the most prominent complaint is the lack of heat.

"Half of last winter, the heaters were brick cold," said Rosevelt Philippe, who shares a two-bedroom apartment with his wife and two children. Philippe claims that no matter how often he has called management, only once has someone come by to "breathe" his radiators.

To ensure the comfort of his 6-year-old son and 1-year-old daughter, he bought three space heaters: one for his bedroom, one for his children's room, and one for the hallway.

Next door to Philippe lives Marcus Holmes, who shares a

### GREENE ACRES



Dana Rubinstein



Janna Kennedy Hyten, whose "haunted house" on Clinton Avenue draws spectators from all over on Halloween, prepares to conduct an autopsy on an unidentified celebrity.

## The queen of Halloween

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

A flying saucer will touch down on a makeshift Clinton Hill graveyard this Saturday, in anticipation of the most spine-tickling holiday of the year.

The UFO, a silver ship spanning 50 feet in circumference and standing 15 feet tall, is this year's central prop in what has become one woman's annual quest to share the glorious ghouliness of Halloween with her neighbors.

Janna Kennedy Hyten would not reveal the alien ship's mission, citing state secrecy. But she did promise that before long, its purpose would be as clear as the comets of a gougged-out eyeball.

Hyten has used the parlor floor and front yard of the five-story white Victorian mansion between Lafayette and DeKalb avenues as a stage from which to scare the tuna salad out of her friends and neighbors since 1994.

Her Halloween observances have since grown more ambitious, though they retain their original form: one part private bash, one part public spectacle. These days, her party attracts about 500 people, and her increasingly elaborate front yard



draws countless more.

Hyten, who gave two reporters a tour of her apartment on the condition that they reveal next to nothing about the preparations they saw inside, said her love of Halloween is rooted in her childhood.

"I grew up on a very dark street in rural Florida," said Hyten, who now shares the home she's dubbed Chateau de Chat Noir with her husband, daughter, a deaf and blind black cat Tattoo and a plump black

kitty called Bob.

"My mom and dad's house was the scariest one on the block," said Hyten. "My mom was a hermit with a BB gun, and she didn't like visitors. For me, this big extravaganza is the exact opposite of what I grew up with."

There are no flying BBs, but it is the scariest house on the block. Take, for example, the mock skeleton with its cranium sliced in two atop an autopsy table covered in blood. Hyten

wouldn't reveal its exact purpose. She would only refer cryptically to the likes of Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton.

Hyten is not alone in her obsession with Halloween. She's infected about a dozen of her friends with her enthusiasm, each of whom is charged with tasks ranging from scriptwriting and lighting to music and tombstones.

Yes, tombstones: the grave-markers that sprout up every year from the oddly fertile grass on Hyten's front lawn. The epitaphs change with the season. In recent memory, the cemetery has memorialized Christian Slater, Mike Tyson, and Bob Dole.

"Tombstone epitaphs fly back and forth on email," said Claudia Howard, Hyten's upstairs neighbor, who is the head writer. Indeed, only one tombstone epitaph has survived unchanged: the stone above the grave of the National Rifle Association.

"It's all in good fun," said Hyten. "It's not meant to offend. Well, it is meant to offend some people."

Halloween festivities at Le Chateau de Chat Noir (213 Clinton Ave., between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues in Clinton Hill, Oct. 31, after dark. (Mwa-ha-ha-ha-ha).

### ON OUR OTHER PAGES

**PARK SLOPE**  
Planters pruned

**RED HOOK**  
Bar robber caught

**GREENPOINT**  
New ferries coming

**BAY RIDGE**  
Leveled Victories

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"We can't turn up the heat," said Howard. "Albany has to." Everyone (including the building's own management) seemed to be under the mistaken impression that, because the Energy Research and Development Authority helped install an energy-efficient boiler and heat sensors in all of the apartments, some omnipotent environmental consultant up in Albany was monitoring the heat levels.

Sai Graven, an agency spokesman, cleared that up. "The authority has no control over the delivery of the heat," he said. And after a few phone calls, Howard arrived at the same conclusion.

Howard said that the heat was at one point monitored by an energy consultant in Long Island City, but admitted that that contract expired in 2005 and since then, PACC has screwed up the heat.

"We are aware of the problem of inadequate heat in the building, which has been a frustration for us as well as the tenants," said Howard.

This week, Howard said the former Long Island City consultant would visit and show PACC how to monitor the heat levels.

"We will address this situation before the heating season begins," promised Howard.

The head of the tenants association, which was formed this summer to get the jump on the colder weather, hopes that Howard follows through.

"The principal reason we got together in the summer was because the lack of heat in the winter was so bad for us," said Fortia Adams, who stays warm in the winter by leaving her oven door open and turning on a space heater. "It's a shame. And I hope we get enough attention so we get heat this winter."

Maybe then, Howard and her staff can install a new lock on the front door. Adams says it hasn't worked in months.

Dana Rubinstein is a staff writer at The Brooklyn Paper.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Local kid rock sensation **Audra Tsanos**, and her band **Audroxx**, will entertain the kiddie set at a PS 11 school benefit on Nov. 3. We loved her with **Music for Aardvarks**, but we really hope she'll play "I got a Sugar High!" PS 11 is at 419 Waverly Ave., between Greene and Gates avenues. The show is at 4 p.m. For tickets, visit [www.ps11brooklyn.org](http://www.ps11brooklyn.org). ... Sometimes, we wish we had an office dog, just so we could dress him up as a paper boy and enter him in the Ninth Annual Great Pumpkin Dog Costume Contest on Oct. 27, hosted by the **Fort Greene Pups** dog owners association. Even if your mongrel doesn't have an outfit yet, head to the contest in **Fort Greene Park** (at the top of the hill) at 11:30 p.m. For information, visit [www.fortgreene.org](http://www.fortgreene.org).

Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com).

## Thar she blows at the Navy Yard

The Brooklyn Paper

Apparently, Brooklyn will soon have the honor of being home to the first building in the city to use wind turbines to harvest energy.

The three-story industrial building, to be erected in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, will be topped by a series of small wind turbines that convert the kinetic energy of a stiff breeze into electricity.

"Supposedly, there are no other wind turbines on buildings in New York City," said Andrew Kimball, president of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, the quasi-governmental agency that facilitates development in the yard.

"This will be the first."

The half-dozen turbines that will top the new building bare little resemblance to those statuesque towers that seem to cover Europe. These turbines will rise only six feet from the roof of the

89,000-square-foot, industrial building. The turbines will power some of common areas in the building, allowing the yard to suck less electricity from the power grid.

This is the latest in a series of green developments to bloom like weeds from the Navy Yard's industrial soil. Back in April, the yard heralded the arrival of two solar-powered, waste-compacting trash cans. The yard is also transitioning to all hybrid vehicles, and is looking to add solar power.

Kimball cautioned that the wind turbine development is "absolutely experimental."

"A lot of the sustainable energy initiatives are still shaking out, as far as whether they are viable in the long run," said Kimball.

Whether or not the turbines are viable should be determined as early as next year. The building is scheduled for completion in June.

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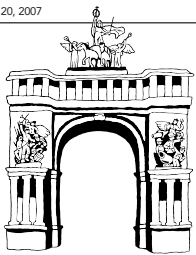
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# THE STOOP

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

## They all want me dead now

**O**n Tuesday, I biked home for the last time this season. I could chalk it up to the early sunsets, which make it difficult to bike safely. Or I could chalk it up to the real reason: every driver (and some of my fellow bikers) wants me dead.

Most of the time, I stay safe by avoiding rush hour because I head for work early and leave the office late (don't worry, boss; I'm pulling 70 hour weeks just for the easy ride home. I assure you). I can't stand pedaling during rush hour, when everyone is speeding like madmen to get home, so I usually leave the office at 6:30. But as the sunsets come earlier, I have to leave a bit sooner to avoid biking in pitch darkness. And when it's dark out, drivers get even crazier, because their brains are tricking them into thinking they're later than they really are.

But drivers aren't the only nuts out there. I was biking on Jay Street alongside another biker on Tuesday when all of a sudden, his cellphone rings.

Now, remember: this is rush hour on Jay Street — which is about as safe as driving a Dodge Dart at the Indy 500 — and this guy pulls out his cellphone!

So I gave a friendly reminder: "On your left," I said — but he pulled out the phone anyway and veered to the left.

"On your left?" I yelled out again. "I know, geez!" he yelled back at me, though he finally veered away.

It was then that I realized we all need to follow a few simple rules of the road:

**1. When operating a vehicle of any kind, do not use a cellphone.**

Anyone who spends any time on a bike knows that nine times out of 10, the crazy driver turning the wrong way down Smith Street is yanking on a cellphone. And only one time in 1,000 does he get a ticket.

**2. Stop speeding up to cut off a bicyclist.**

Drivers, it's much easier for you to see ahead of you than it is for the biker to see behind himself, so why not let the biker get around that double-parked car rather than speed up to cut him off abruptly?

**3. Do not run red lights.**

Drivers: Running through a red light in New York is idiotic. With staggered lights, you're only running one red to get another.

Bikers: It's illegal to run red lights, of course, but at many intersections, it's actually dangerous because as you're looking right to see if there's an oncoming traffic speeding through its green light, there are pedestrians heading across the street from both corners. My rule is to slow down to a safe stopping distance before heading illegally across the intersection. And by "safe stopping distance," I mean the ability to stop on a dime and say, "Sorry" to the pedestrian, not the skill to whiz by him and then had epiphanies at him for crossing with the light when you were planning to run it.

**4. Respect bike lanes.**

Drivers: Stop parking in bike lanes or treating them like they're your passing lane. And if the double-parked car is in your lane and a biker is in the bike lane, you have to slow down, not the biker.

Bikers: If there's a bike lane, use it; don't weave through traffic. And don't go the wrong way down a bike lane, as this confuses bikers (not my real name) who are going the correct way. Memo to those guys heading down Third Street on Tuesday as I was huffing and puffing up: That lane ain't big enough for the both of us. I have right of way, so get out.

The good news is that, at least for the winter, I'm off the roads. I made it through another biking season without having — or pushing that shit in my office computer.

Gersh Kuntzman is the editor of The Brooklyn Paper and a Park Slope resident.

PS... I LOVE YOU



Gersh Kuntzman



**IS YOUR PLANTER NEXT?** The Department of Transportation has ordered several of these planters on Union Street to be removed.

## City set to prune back Union Street planters

By Adam F. Hutton

The Brooklyn Paper

The city has ordered 10 planters to be removed from Union Street — part of a crackdown on thousands of micro cement park citywide. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

"We are reviewing all (permits) for planters to ensure they comply with city regulations and the terms of the (permits)," transportation spokesman Ted Timbers told The Brooklyn Paper.

The citywide review hits home with Nick Kotsonis, who found out that his planters between Sixth and Seventh avenues would get the boot last month.

"We've owned and maintained those planters since the

Koch Administration, and every year, the city has renewed our permit," Kotsonis said. "Now they say we have to get rid of them."

That had Peg Patterson scratching her head, too.

"It seems like a waste of everyone's time and money to remove them," said Patterson, who has lived in Park Slope for 15 years.

The city is taking a closer look at all planter permits, but the cement cylinders on Union Street attracted inspectors' attention because of their proximity to two B71 bus stops near the corner of Seventh Avenue.

"In this case, the planters were blocking passengers at a bus stop," said Timbers said.

But locals aren't buying that. "They're not the most beautiful things in the world, but I also don't think that they're obstructing anything," said Fiona Boneham, who has lived in Park Slope for more than 20 years.

And who's a better expert than Scott Dahlie, who takes the B71 all the time? "I've never really noticed them before, let alone been obstructed by them, while I'm waiting for the bus," he said.

## Time for a change

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

Flatbush Avenue's two Victorian-style street-clocks will tick-tock again by the end of October.

The free-standing, 12-foot clock towers — originally hoisted in 1982 where Flatbush intersects with Sterling Place and Sixth Avenue — have had one bad stroke of luck after another.

At 3:11 on a still-undetermined day in 2004, the clock Sterling Place clocked stopped ticking. The hands of time remained frozen — telling the right time just twice a day! — until repairs were made in July 2005.

Five months later, a bad driver knocked it over. So much for the repairs. Meanwhile, the sister clock at Sixth Avenue had also rebelled against the passage of time, refusing to mark another minute.

Fortunately, North Flatbush Business Improvement District Executive Director Dawn Torres has made it her mission to wind up these beloved clocks again. By June, the clock at Sixth Avenue (above) was again ticking.

At the same time, Torres had lined up \$15,000 to resurrect the car-decked clock at Sterling Place — mostly by finally getting the driver's insurance company to pay up. By the end of October, that clock should also be running.

That's good for Murat Uyaroglu, owner of Prospect Park coffee shop — though not because he needs help keeping time.

"It's going to be a good landmark for my business," said Uyaroglu. "Let's say you want to meet someone; you can meet him under the clock, right near my shop."

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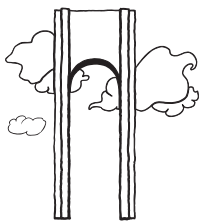
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# THE STOOP

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS BATH BEACH

## Victorian era ends in Ridge?

Local activists are asking if the destruction of three beloved Bay Ridge Victorian homes is the beginning of a broader trend. Well, this columnist has an answer — let's hope so!

And while we at, let's take down the whole Victorian mindset!

For those of you who don't spend your free time trolling through the blogosphere, the controversy centers around the destruction of three beautiful Victorian homes on 74th Street between Third and Fourth avenues.

Residents were shocked — and for good reason.

That's because the Basile Builders Group, which purchased the three properties at 318, 326, and 334, told the public last August that they had no appetite for restoration, but were only intent on restoring the Victorians to their former glory.

That was, of course, before last week when the company demolished all three — which is when this dust-up predictably went nuclear.

Mushroom clouds spouted all over city blogs, many predicting doom.

"A community that isn't organized enough to make a stink is what killed these Victorians, plain and simple," posted one blogger on Curbed, a real-estate site. "The neighborhood will continue to be prey until the residents get together and elect the elected officials to get some protection placed on the area."

A call was out for government intervention.

But while residents were busy pointing the finger at greedy developers, buyers, sellers and local pols, one community official blamed something else — that pesky little document called the Constitution.

"A lot of people called and were angry that we weren't doing something to stop the demolition," said Community Board 10 District Manager Josephine Beckmann. "But we checked that the owners [got] the proper permits, so there isn't anything else we can do because it is private property."

What a concept!

That's right, private property gives owners the right to destroy their own property, even if we really really don't want them to. This law even applies in Bay Ridge, where anti-development attitudes still rule.

That's why this columnist finds reason to gloat in a rare case where the mob loses and freedom wins.

It's not that Yellow Hooker is a heartless monster or that he gets satisfaction out of other people's misery (seriously, I don't). But I do happen to believe that property rights are more important than almost any other freedom.

It is also noteworthy that the vast majority of residents who oppose development are the ones who already own property. This means they are the ones who stand to gain financially by curbing the housing supply.

Meanwhile, renters and those looking to own — the two groups with little power in such matters — have learned the painful lesson of economics: the less housing available, the higher the prices for it.

The good news is not that the Victorians are gone, but that more housing will rise from their rubble. That's progress.

Matthew Lysiak is a writer living in Bay Ridge. Please send your inevitable hate mail to [newscorrespondent@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:newscorrespondent@brooklynpaper.com).

### YELLOW HOOKER

Matthew Lysiak



All that's left of three Victorians on 74th Street between Third and Fourth avenues is a vacant lot.

## Townhouses KO Ridge Victorians

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about an extreme makeover! Three elegant Victorian homes on 74th Street between Third and Fourth avenues, beloved by locals for their simple beauty, have been reduced to rubble — and will be replaced by five three-family townhouses, according to the Basile Builders Group, which owns the property.

"The townhouses should be done by the summer of 2008," said Basile spokesman John Longardo. "There is a real demand for housing in Bay Ridge."

When asked about the design of the new buildings, Longardo said similar townhouses can be found on 90th Street between Third and Fourth avenues.

Given Bay Ridge's strong — though not always successful — impulse towards preservation, not everyone was happy to hear about

the demolition of the three Victorians. "They were totally beautiful and charming homes that the community is going to miss," said local preservationist Victoria Hofma. "Residents are absolutely devastated and have been coming up to me all the time asking why these homes had to be torn down. It is a shame."

Basile is building "as-of-right" and does not need city variances. As a result, the company did not need to see local community board or City Council approval.



## Bleeding for Victory

More than 150 hospital staffers rallied in support of Victory Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, hoping to stave off a state recommendation that the medical center close. Of immediate concern is the Victory ER, which is at 104 percent capacity. "We are not going to stop fighting until we know this emergency room is going to remain open," said state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge). On Thursday, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest urged the state Department of Health to accept a SUNY Downstate proposal to take over Victory's emergency room.

## Rogue sidewalk sale woe

The Brooklyn Paper

Two local merchants are under scrutiny for the "disgusting" display in front of their stores — they're using the sidewalk as part of the selling floor, officials say.

Community Board 10 District Manager Josephine Beckmann said her office has been in touch with law enforcement and the Department of Sanitation in its struggle against After School Rules, on the corner of 88th Street and Fifth Avenue,



Local officials are on the warpath against rogue vending.

and GK Department Store, on 86th Street near Fort Hamilton Parkway, both of which appear to be violating city vending laws by selling items on the sidewalk, Beckmann said.

After School Rules even has shelves against its outer wall to display merchandise.

"It is illegal, not to mention it just looks sloppy," Beckmann said. "You just can't build shelves on the side of your store."

Another resident was more succinct. "It is disgusting how they just let their property all over the sidewalk," said Sue Thomas. "Someone needs to do something about it before other stores follow their lead."

—Matthew Lysiak

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### Lowen's raided again!

**Grab steroids and hormones; cops, ballplayers under scrutiny**

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

Five months after drug enforcement authorities raided Lowen's, the popular pharmacy at the corner of Third Avenue and 69th Street, state investigators pounded down the doors again on Tuesday, this time seizing enough raw powder to make nearly a million doses of human growth hormone.

And cops arrested one worker at the pharmacy, according to NYPD spokesman Paul Browne.

ESPN magazine reported that investigators found 90 grams of raw human growth hormone, worth an estimated \$7.2 million, in the Tuesday raid. They also found quantities of three popular steroids, testosterone, nandrolone and stanozolol.

One of the 20 boxes hauled away by officers contained prescription requests from the Palm Beach Life Extension Clinic, where the New York Daily News reported that St. Louis Cardinals star Rick Ankiel received his HGH, according to ESPN.

The records are being turned over to the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office for further investigation. Twenty computers also were seized by the NYPD.

On Wednesday, Browne confirmed that six officers are being investigated "for the possible improper use of prescriptions to obtain anabolic steroids for non-medical, personal use." He said he anticipated no arrests of any cops, though the use of steroids "could result in disciplinary action."

Lowen's has presented the image of the picture-perfect mom-and-pop store on Third Avenue for decades. But the store is ac-

See **LOWEN'S** page 8

### THE KITCHEN SINK

CB10 has approved a co-naming of the corner of 13th Avenue and 77th Street after firefighter **Joey Gruffagnino**, who died in the Deutsche Bank blaze. The corner was chosen because it is near the **Sally Dog** pub where Gruffagnino used to bartend. **Rep. Vito Fossella** supported the co-naming and put out the first press release on the issue: "No words or actions can ease the pain felt by his family, but this street naming will provide an eternal reminder of his heroism, bravery, and sacrifice," Fossella said. ... More from Vito! Fossella, in partnership with the **merchants of 18th Avenue**, has arranged for a mammogram van. Free breast cancer screenings for women age 40 will be offered all day on Oct. 30. Pre-register by calling (800) 864-6868. ... A Sink welcome to **Councilman Vince Gentile's** new spokesman, **Kvonne Patterson**, who is filling the big shoes of **Eric Kuo**. We have two pieces of advice for the newcomer: a) Always return our calls, and b) Convince your boss to ditch the red ties. He's a Democrat, for Kitchen Sink! Kuo now works for **Councilman Simcha Felder**, who is expected to run for citywide office in 2009. ... Earlier this month, **Marchese** bakery, at Third Avenue and 71st Street, closed. The owner better watch out: the Italian cookies were a hit with Tony Sirico, who played tough guy Paulie Walnuts on the Sopranos. ... Anyone else notice the **unmarked blimps** roving around Bay Ridge lately? Our source tells The Sink that the blimps have been spotted all over the last three weeks hovering low to the ground with no identifiable marks. Would love to know more. ... **Poly Prep Country Day** wants your junk! For the first time, the Bay Ridge private school will be collecting old computer and electronics equipment, which are considered highly toxic to the environment and, worse, highly likely to be taking up too much space in your house. Bring the junk to the school's back parking lot on Seventh Avenue, just south of 92nd Street, on Oct. 29 and 30. For information, call **Shirley Ruchi** at (718) 836-9800 x3230.  
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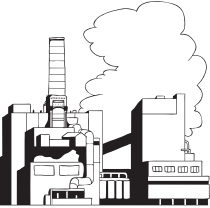
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# THE STOOP

WILLIAMSBURG-GREENPOINT-BUSHWICK

## Take this area history quiz!

You think you know the neighborhood? Test your knowledge with this quiz that combines history and current events (see answers on page 8).

### 1. Greenpoint gets its name from:

- a) a corruption of "Green Port."
- b) a tree-lined point of land that once extended into the East River.
- c) painted arrowheads used by the local Indians.
- d) brewer and Son of Liberty Josiah Green.

### 2. Williamsburg gets its name from:

- a) 19th-century surveyor Jonathan Williams.
- b) Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany.
- c) Williamsburg, Virginia.
- d) English King William of Orange.

### 3. Grand Street Campus was once called:

- a) Newtown Creek HS.
- b) Greenpoint HS.
- c) Eastern District HS.
- d) Josiah Green Academy.

### 4. Councilman Yassky's predecessor was:

- a) Victor Robles.
- b) Abe Gerges.
- c) Meade Esposito.
- d) Ken Fisher.

### 5. The city's largest sewage treatment plant is:

- a) Newtown Creek Water Treatment Plant.
- b) Hunts Point Water Treatment Plant.
- c) Red Hook Water Treatment Plant.
- d) North River Water Treatment Plant.

### 6. Newtown Creek sewage plant is in:

- a) Newtown.
- b) Red Hook.

### BESIDE THE POINT



Tom Gilbert

### 14. The street destroyed by the construction of McGuinness Boulevard was:

- a) San Francisco St.
- b) Oakland St.
- c) Sacramento St.
- d) Hollywood St.

### 15. McGolrick Park is named for:

- a) the first captain of the USS Monitor.
- b) an 18th-century tavern owner who sold to minors.
- c) a pastor of St. Cecilia's RC Church.
- d) a local boxing champion.

### 16. McCarren Park is named for:

- a) state Sen. and political boss Patrick Henry McCarren.
- b) real-estate developer Jerry McCarren.
- c) Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Augustus McCarren.
- d) kickball inventor "Chip" McCarren.

### 17. The Kosciuszko bridge is named for:

- a) Polish patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko.
- b) mustard magnate Stanley Kosciuszko.
- c) polka legend Jimmy Kosciuszko.
- d) General Casimir Pulaski.

### 18. Harrison Avenue, Ross Street, Lynch Street, Middleton Street and Lee Avenue were all named

- a) Pro-American members of the English Parliament.
- b) signers of the Declaration of Independence.
- c) 18th-century Brooklyn farmers.
- d) principals of IS 318.

### 19. Keep Street gets its name from:

- a) a town in Ireland.
- b) misreading of the name "McKean."
- c) a shipyard owner.
- d) Aaron Burr's dog.

### 20. The real name of rapper Jay-Z, a graduate of Williamsburg's IS 318, is:

- a) Lionel Jefferson.
- b) John Smith.
- c) Shawn Carter.
- d) John Galvin.

### 21. Greenpoint is mentioned in which film?

- a) 12 Angry Men.
- b) On the Waterfront.
- c) White Chicks.
- d) The Departed.

### 22. Vince Lombardi and Joe Torre both attended what Williamsburg school?

- a) Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
- b) St. Francis Prep.
- c) Eastern District HS.
- d) PS 110.

### 23. Which is NOT the name of a new North Brooklyn development?

- a) Northside Piers.
- b) Aqua.
- c) Subprime Towers.
- d) Schaefer Landing.

### 24. The first East River is:

- a) a fjord.
- b) a river.
- c) a tidal estuary.
- d) Robert Moses' last project.

### 25. Which one was made in Greenpoint?

- a) the Statue of Liberty.
- b) the Jima monument.
- c) the bronze figures atop the Grand Army Plaza arch.
- d) the New York Public Library's stone lions.

### 26. In Italian, "giglio" means:

- a) tower.
- b) lily.



## This is a tree falling in Brooklyn

By Neil Munshi

for The Brooklyn Paper

It's not unusual to see tree limbs littering the street after a big rainstorm, but Graham Avenue loses its foliage even on a clear day.

That's because the avenue is

lined with notoriously frail Bradford pear trees, which, though beautiful to the eye, have become a nuisance.

"They're pretty outrageous," said Community Board 1 District Manager Gerald Esposito, who said the trees were a constant source of frustration —

not just for his constituents, but for the Parks Department, too.

Bradford pear trees (above) "have weak branch connections," said Brooklyn Forestry Director Andy Rabb, in an e-mail that Esposito shared with The Brooklyn Paper. "Even with moderate winds, we get a lot of pear trees falling apart."

According to the 2005-06 "NYC Street Tree Census," Callery Pear trees, of which Bradfords are a type, are the city's third-most-common species. The Parks Department, which is responsible for inspecting trees and removing fallen limbs, could not give specific data, but a spokesperson said the department is fully committed to the city's 600,000 street trees.

Of the 46 tree pits between Meeker Avenue and Grand Street, six held cracked Bradfords, three of which were tagged for removal; two held solid Bradfords; nine held Bradford stumps; and one was empty.

"We no longer plant this type of tree, and replace with a variety of different species," said Parks spokesperson Jesslyn Tiao. But Frank Marino, 37, the owner of Doers Video, who raised the issue at a recent community board meeting, said regular inspections don't always help because the trees can break randomly.

"They came in July and deemed the tree safe," said Marino. "And three weeks later, it lost more limbs."

The branches fell on a clear day, said Marino, who has "a sheet-load of complaints to 311." Marino said the Parks Department usually remove trees quickly. But that didn't satisfy CB1's Esposito, who wants all remaining Bradfords removed — though the city won't remove any healthy tree until it completely falls.

Rabb agreed that the trees can be frail, but also pointed out that homeowners often request Bradfords because of their resiliency and the "clouds of white flowers in the spring which are much enjoyed by neighborhood residents."

Elliott Foulds, a historical landscape architect with the National Parks Service, said time will heal this crisis.



## CB1 to Navy Yard: Make ship shape!

By Adam F. Hutton

The Brooklyn Paper

The district manager of Williamsburg's community board feels "almost disgust" about the junkyard and giant pile of salt that are visible at the Brooklyn Navy Yard along Kent Avenue between Keap and Rush streets.

Community Board 1's Gerald Esposito says the cars, which are sold at auction by the city's Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and the salt, which is used by the Department of Sanitation to clear city streets of snow and ice in the winter, are unsightly and pose an environmental hazard for the surrounding area.

Indeed, from Kent Avenue, it is difficult for passersby not to notice the three-story salt pile covered by a cone-shaped shell and the disembodied auto parts among the skeletal remains of cars in various states of disrepair.

Esposito wrote to the Navy Yard Development Corporation last month to "voice our utmost disgust," at the eyesores and "request that you take immediate action to remove this junkyard and sanitation facility, or provide fencing that will not display this blight to our community."

In the meantime, Navy Yard President and CEO Andrew Kimball told The Brooklyn Paper that Esposito's complaints may be moot: the Navy Yard is redeveloping the six-acre site on the outskirts of the yards, though it could be a year before it seeks out developers.

The plan calls for industrial, commercial and retail space on the site after the salt pile and auction lot are relocated.

Esposito said he spoke with Kimball on Monday and was pleased that the lines of communication were now open.

"I believe that we will move forward in a spirit of cooperation," Esposito said. "We finally have a dialogue going. I don't know what kind of fruit that is going to yield, but at least we have that much."

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# Rent-stabilized tenants fail in anti-A Yards bid

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

A group of rent-stabilized tenants in the Atlantic Yards footprint has lost a battle in the war to save their homes.

In a two-paragraph decision, a state appellate court dismissed the tenants' appeal of a case that argues that developer Forest City Ratner and the state improperly canceled their leases.

But the 13 tenants, who live in two, Ratner-owned rent-stabilized buildings at 473 Dean St. and 634 Pacific St., are holding out hope that the fight could go on, the ruling said the tenants should file their case in a different jurisdiction.

Their lawyer, George Locker, said he might do just that, arguing that "Ratner is doing an end-run around the state rent-stabilization laws."

Under those laws, according to Locker, a landlord who wants to cancel rent-stabilized leases must go through a process overseen by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

But Ratner did not need to go through the time-consuming process, according to the Empire State Development Corporation, which is overseeing the development of Atlantic Yards, because his plan is to transfer the buildings to the state, which will then condemn the property and turn it back over to Ratner.

Locker claims the tactic sped up the removal of his clients from their homes by "at least two years."

The Locker case is separate from a larger lawsuit that challenges the state's right to seize property. That case, which was heard in federal appeals court last week, is pending.

## GIBRAN...

Continued from page 1

monaster said that "because the T-shirts had nothing to do with me or [the school], I saw no reason to discuss the issue with the media. I agreed to an interview with a reporter from the Post at [the Department's] insistence."

As a result, her coming lawsuit will claim that her forced resignation violated Almontaser's First Amendment rights, her lawyer said.

The Department of Education's Cantor countered that the agency would fight such a suit. "Ms. Almontaser was never forced to speak to reporters, make statements, or

otherwise act against her will," Cantor said.

After a controversy surrounding the school's initial placement inside Park Slope's PS 282, it was relocated to a Boerum Hill building that already housed a middle school and high school. The city appealed skeptical parents there with promises of long-needed capital improvements to the building.

The school's three sixth-grade classes began without incident in September. Eventually, the school, which will encompass grades six to 12, will get its own building, Education officials said.

Meanwhile, Almontaser continues to earn about \$120,000 a year, while she works on curriculum development at the Department of Education's Tweed Courthouse headquarters near City Hall.

Twenty-five educators have applied for Almontaser's old job, which has been filled in the interim by Danielle Salzborg, a Jewish teacher who does not speak Arabic.

Salzborg's appointment was itself controversial, prompting former Mayor Ed Koch to call it a sign of "spitting in [the eye] of New York's Arab-American population."

Education officials said that it will take at least a month for the city to find a permanent principal. It's unclear whether Salzborg, a veteran Department of Education official, has also applied.

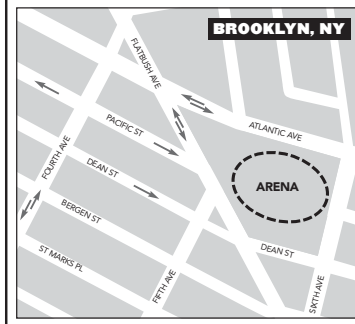
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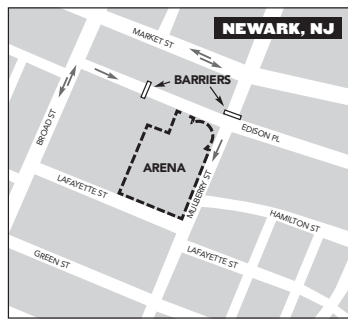
October 20, 2007

## Nerves of glass

Opponents of Atlantic Yards seized on new concerns raised by Newark, N.J., police about security at the soon-to-open Prudential Center hockey arena



(below right). According to the Newark Star-Ledger, police will close off some streets around the glass-fronted arena to ward off a potential terror attack. Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards arena (below left) is also glass-walled — and activists say that Ratner and state officials have never openly discussed the possibility of closing additional streets to traffic.



## SECURITY...

Continued from page 1

The Atlantic Yards Environmental Impact Statement did not draw the same conclusions as Goldstein.

"Security measures are not anticipated to affect traffic flow, parking, or the movement of

goods and people in the vicinity of the project site," said the document, which was written last year — long before Newark's security decision in secret — until it was revealed last week in the Star-Ledger —

and that neither the Empire State Development Corporation nor the NYPD will discuss their current security plans.

That's why Goldstein, Vogel and Councilmember Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) demanded hearings about security plans at Atlantic Yards.

That came on Sunday afternoon in front of the anti-Ratner bolder, Freddy's Bar, on Dean Street, before a walkathon to benefit Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn's ongoing legal battle against Atlantic Yards. About 200 people marched through Park Slope and Prospect Heights in a show of support. [The walkathon raised \$50,000, according to Develop Don't Destroy.]

After the rally, Michael Balboni, who is Gov. Spitzer's deputy secretary for public safety in the state's Office of Homeland Security, said he is willing to meet with community groups.

But no matter how good the Brooklyn security plan is, experts dislike the secrecy surrounding it.

"There is a reasonable expectation on the part of the public that they be informed," said Robert McCrie, a security management professor at John Jay College.

"If the public is going to be inconvenienced, they should know, in advance, what is anticipated — and that they have an opportunity to voice their feelings."



Mrs. Brooklyn? A protester at Sunday's walkathon.

The NYPD, the state and Forest City Ratner would not comment for this story, leaving opponents to wonder whether the only thing worse than driving down Atlantic Avenue during a Nets home game might be not being able to drive down Atlantic Avenue at all during a Nets home game.

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## GIRL

Continued from page 1

To draw on her own front stoop. "Chalk on a walkway 'IN: SHER FENCE?'" said a poster who identified himself as Whiner. "How can ANYONE seriously think there's ANYTHING wrong with that?"

Of course, this being the Internet, plenty of people took



The Daily News mocks the city in its take on our story.

vantage of the discussion to ridicule the "Nanny State," complain about liberals, rail against conservatives and, naturally, condemn New York City. "I hate New York," wrote "Moron Joe." "You all live in filth and think it is cool. What a pathetic existence."

Another poster, Mary, added, "That is why no one should live in a city — everyone policing everything. Kids need freedom to play and explore, not regulations. I know, just stick Natalie in front of a TV!"

A New York Sun editorial even used the story as a metaphor for all that is wrong with the city's 311 system: "They should set up a new system so that New Yorkers can add a hotline and ask for a new administration."

Like the Sun, the vast majority of our commentators defended Natalie's art — as does the law, which criminalizes the use of chalk on a building only when the scrawler lacks the building owner's permission.

That said, Pepperman still has a week to respond to the city warning letter, which explains that she must remove the graffiti or ask the city to do so.

A Sanitation spokeswoman said last week that if Pepperman does not respond to the letter, the city could issue a \$300 ticket if the graffiti is still there.

Like many in the city — and online! — Pepperman will pray for rain — and common sense from bureaucrats.

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October 20, 2007

# Just saying 'no' may have led to this big-time theft

## POLICE BLOTTER

By Harry Cheadle  
and Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

### 84th Precinct

A woman who followed Nancy Reagan's famous advice to "just say no" to drugs ended up being robbed of \$4,400 in jewelry early on Oct. 12.

The 27-year-old victim was walking home at 1 a.m. when two men approached her at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street, and one asked, "Do you want to buy a joint?" The woman said no and added, "I'm good," and continued to walk, but the pair followed her and one of the men put what felt like a gun against her back.

The victim froze, and the crooks took \$3,500 in diamond rings, along with a \$600 watch and a \$300 pair of earrings.

It's safe to say she didn't win employee of the month.

A worker at a popular Fulton Mall department store was discovered giving away merchandise on Oct. 13, and admitted to stealing an additional \$1,500 from customers' credit cards, cops said.

The 23-year-old cashier was ringing up a customer around 4 p.m. when her suspicious behavior — she was removing security tags from the clothing and putting \$825 worth of stuff into bags without taking any money from the customer — was observed by a fellow employee.

**Out the window**  
A sneaky burglar broke into a DUMBO man's Plymouth Street apartment through an unlocked window and made off with a fancy flat-screen TV on Oct. 10.

The man left his second-story apartment, near Pearl Street, around 7:30 a.m. and came back at 4:30 p.m. If he was looking forward to unwinding in front of his high-definition television, he was quickly disappointed.

**Hamburgled**  
A fast-food establishment famed for inviting customers to

"have it your way" didn't have its way on Oct. 9, as three men held up the Fulton Street franchise at puppet.

The three men — two of whom were in jogging jackets — entered the restaurant, near Pearl Street, around 10 p.m. "Be calm and cool," one perp said, according to police. "Now give me all your money and put your hands in your pocket and just stand there."

The employee complied, and the thieves escaped with \$2,100 out of the register.

### McWhipped

A perp who, oddly enough, used a whip as his weapon, stole a cellphone from a 14-year-old in the bathroom of a billion-selling burger chain on Oct. 9.

The boy had stopped at the fast food joint, on the corner of Tillary and Gold streets, around 3 p.m. He went to the bathroom and was followed by a largish man who grabbed the victim from behind and threatened, "Just hand over your stuff. I got a whip. I don't want to take it out."

The boy noticed that a second man was blocking the door, so he gave away \$10 and his Sidekick cellphone.

### 88th Precinct

#### Lost his bread

A routine stop for a man delivering baked goods to a Myrtle Avenue supermarket turned into an armed robbery on Oct. 8.

The man pulled up near the store, near Washington Park, at around 3 p.m. He was getting ready to cart the bread to the store when a pair of men with their faces hidden by black hoods entered the truck and forced him into the back.

One of the men pulled out a handgun, ordered the victim to the ground, and pressed the gun against the side while the second perp stood lookout.

"Where's the money?" the first crook hissed, and the man, terrified for his life, handed over \$1,500.

Not satisfied, the hood took the man's gold necklace before fleeing.

### Tennis thief

A wallet-snatcher may have attempted to return the stolen property — minus two credit cards — but the wallet's owner is still suspicious.

The incident started on Oct. 7 around 10 a.m., when a man set down his wallet to play tennis at a court near the corner of Adelpi and DeKalb avenues. The wallet was gone when the man finished his game, but a couple of days later, a dreadlocked man came to the victim's house with the wallet in hand, claiming that he had found it at a Popeye's in Downtown Brooklyn.

The man took his wallet back, but remembered seeing the perp hanging out nearby when he was playing tennis.

**Kid criminals**  
A pair of 15-year-olds went on a mini crime spree on Oct. 9, stealing the cellphones of two



## Not again

Someone scrawled a swastika on the Independence Bank at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street this week, but it could not be removed quickly because solvents could damage the landmark building (which is soon to house a Trader Joe's market).

younger teens, but the police caught one of the pint-sized perps and returned the stolen property.

The duo started by assaulting a 13-year-old girl as she walked home from school at around 3:40 p.m. As she reached the corner of Clermont and DeKalb avenues, one of the thugs put her in a chokehold and grabbed her phone.

Evidently pleased with the results of their first caper, they moved a few blocks away, to the intersection of Vanderbilt and Lafayette avenues, where they similarly attacked a 13-year-old boy around 4 p.m., cops said.

They used the same tactics, placing the youngster in a chokehold while one kept watch. This time, however, the cops came by, and the dead-end kids fled in different directions.

The cops caught the boy who had done the choking and found both cellphones on him, police said.

### Do-gooder shot

A man who intervened in a robbery on Oct. 7 was rewarded with a shot in the leg.

The 53-year-old Good Samaritan noticed a woman being accosted by three teens on the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street around 6 p.m. He chased the hoodlums off and during the scuffle he heard a "firecracker-like sound."

He felt a pain in his ankle and assumed he had been kicked, but then he looked down to find that there was a hole in his jeans and blood running down his leg — a wound from a pellet lodged in his leg.

The teens fled empty-handed, thanks to the wounded hero, who was taken to the hospital, where the projectile was removed.

**Intimidation**  
A 6-foot-1, 150-pound mugger didn't bother to pick on someone his own size on Oct. 9, punching a 13-year-old boy, though failing to rob him of his phone.

The perp approached the boy at the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Adelphi Street at around 3:30 p.m. and said, "Give me your cell." When the boy said no, the man let his fist do the

talking, punching the kid to the ground and giving him a black eye in the process.

Apparently, the perp was satisfied by simply punching the kid out, and departed without taking the cellphone.

### Dorm drama

Students at a world-renowned art school lost laptop thefts from their dorm rooms on Oct. 11, but cops later collared the alleged perp.

The 19-year-old thief probably entered the dorm — located on Willoughby Avenue near Emerson Place — at around 6 p.m. He targeted the third floor of the converted apartment building, taking two laptops from two different rooms. He was noticed by as many as five witnesses, who informed security and the police, who placed the man under arrest around 11 p.m.

It was unclear how the perp had gotten into the dorm in the first place, but he didn't get out.

### 76th Precinct

#### Pretty criminal

A truck driver learned the hard way never to trust a flirt when a younger woman offered to share a drink with him — then stole a computer from his parked rig before the first sip was taken.

The 25-year-old woman made her move on Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m., police said. After her initial overture to the 47-year-old driver, who was parked on Bush Street near Clinton Street, he left the truck to go buy their drinks. She told him she was going to get cigarettes while he was gone.

When he returned to the truck, his date had vanished and so had his \$3,600 Dell laptop.

The tricky thief was dressed in a black jacket, jeans and white sneakers. All of her jewelry was black and her short hair was brushed straight, police said.

**Stolen**  
A thief broke into a parked BMW and stole 20 pairs of \$170 jeans sometime during the night of Oct. 9, police said.

The pile of designer denims, made by the chic designer brand 7 For All Mankind, is worth \$3,400. Another \$50 was also

stolen from the car, which was parked in a private lot on Union Street between Court and Clinton Street.

Police said the thief broke the rear window of the gray car.

### Doorstopped

Two thugs were schooled in the art of home field advantage when a woman they were trying to rob fought them off her Degraw Street doorstep.

The 27-year-old woman was walking on Degraw Street to her home between Hoyt and Bond streets on Oct. 15 at 7:20 p.m. when the wannabe muggers began to trail her, police said.

She was nearly inside her door when one of them asked her the time. When she stopped to respond, the other man pounced. The attacker tried to grab her purse, while his partner blocked her from going inside her house.

Unfortunately for them, the woman wasn't willing to give up her belongings without a fight. After a few moments of struggle, the hoods fled empty-handed.

One of the attackers wore his hair in a buzz cut and the other had on a black jogging jacket, police said.

### 40 cases & cop

Officer Darrell Simon arrested a 19-year-old man that he said he caught stealing 40 cases of soft drinks from the back of a delivery truck parked on Hamilton Avenue near Van Brunt Street on Oct. 15, police said.

The heist was stopped at around 3 a.m. when the truck driver flagged down a police car. Simon said he caught the teen before he could flee, and all 40 cases were returned to the truck.

**Glint**  
A knife-wielding woman robbed a 15-year-old girl walking alone in broad daylight on Oct. 5, cops said.

The holdup happened at 3:15 p.m. on Hoyt Street, between Baltic and Warren streets. Brandishing a shiny, silver blade, the robber demanded that her prey hand over her cellphone.

Before the 15-year-old could react, the other woman grabbed her Sidekick and ran. The phone was worth \$300, police said.

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## More water rip-offs in Hurst

**By Matthew Lysiak and Michael Giardina**  
The Brooklyn Paper

### 62nd Precinct

Two more elderly people were robbed after they let in imposters who claimed they were

there to check the water.

The first swipe was on Oct. 10, at an apartment on 85th Street. The perp approached the 82-year-old man at around noon, as he was entering the building, which is near 20th Avenue, and told him he was there to fix his pipes, water and radiator.

The victim let him in, allowing him to sneak into a master bedroom. There, he stole \$500, and fled, police said.

The second incident was a day later, at a home on 15th Avenue near Independence Avenue. The two thugs rang the bell at around 8:30 am and were

allowed inside. One man ran the faucets while the other swiped \$600 from a nightstand in the 84-year-old man's bedroom.

Cops are checking to see if the two incidents are related. But there seems to be a mini-wave of such crimes. Two weeks ago, The Brooklyn Paper reported that a 60th Street man was scammed in the same basic way on Sept. 25.

### Subway sleep

Sleeping on the subway is never a good idea, especially when it's 3 am. A woman learned this lesson the hard way after she had her purse stolen during a nap on a Brooklyn-bound M train on Oct. 14.

The 28-year-old awoke at the 86th Street stop, which is near 25th Avenue, and realized that a thug had managed to slip out the handbag without disturbing her. He ran off with her credit and debit cards, along with her cellphone, police said.

### Sicklen swipe

An elderly woman had her purse stolen as she was walking on Van Sicklen Street on Oct. 14.

The 74-year-old was near Avenue T, at around 10 am, when the perp rushed her from behind. He swiped her pocketbook — which contained \$38 — and fled towards Avenue S.

### Night mug

A teenager was grabbed and robbed as he was walking on 80th Street on Oct. 14.

The 19-year-old was near 18th Avenue at around 10:30 pm when the perp rushed him from behind. He put him in a chokehold, rifled through his pockets, hit him on the head, and knocked him to the ground.

The perp fled with \$500. The victim was taken to Lutheran Hospital, where he was treated and released.

### Hungry thieves

A 20th Avenue grocery store owner was robbed at gunpoint by two thugs as he was closing up on Oct. 12.

The thugs entered the bodega, which is near 70th Street, at around 11:20 pm, and demanded food. Once the 40-year-old owner told them that he was closed, they pulled out their black pistols and pulled down the security gates. They forced the owner to cough up the cash from the register, along with security surveillance tape, and fled the store, leaving the owner locked in a back refrigerator.

The duo ran off with \$2,200 and the victim's cellphone, police said.

### Stair stick-up

A man was beaten and robbed as he was walking up a stairwell in his 68th Street building on Oct. 12.

The criminals followed the 30-year-old victim into the building, which is near 20th Avenue, at around 9:30 pm. The first perp rushed him from behind, placing him in a chokehold, while the other stole his wallet from his pants pocket.

To add injury to insult, they punched the victim in the head and stomach, leaving him in the stairwell.

The thugs got \$100, including the man's credit and debit cards, police said, before fleeing on 20th Avenue, towards 69th Street.

### Ayam break-in

A man's 65th Street apartment was broken into and robbed of \$5,000 on Oct. 11.

The victim returned to his apartment, which is near 23rd Avenue, at around 9 am and discovered that thieves had picked the front door lock.

Once inside, he realized that the \$5,000, plus some electronics and clothes, had been swiped.

### 68th Precinct

#### Beery beat

A heated discussion between roommates — coupled with too many drinks — set into motion a chain of events that ended with one man getting slashed with a broken beer bottle on Oct. 14.

The argument turned into violence at the 69th Street apartment at around 2:30 am after a 22-year-old man headed off the top of one of the numerous empty beer bottles and slashed his 18-year-old roommate twice on the chest and once below the left ear, according to police.

Cops said the bottle-happy perp took off on foot from the apartment, which is near 13th Avenue, shortly after the fight. The victim's injuries were not thought to be serious.

#### Neck stabbing

A man was stabbed in the neck after an argument with a friend at a 94th Street apartment on Oct. 14.

The 27-year-old victim was having a heated discussion with his 50-year-old friend inside the apartment, which is near Fifth Avenue, at around 9 pm when things quickly escalated into violence as the older man suddenly stabbed the victim in the neck with a three-inch blade.

The assault caused a one-inch wide gash, cops said.

The victim was treated at the scene.

#### Car stolen

A 50-year-old man who parked his 11-year-old Nissan 65th Street on Oct. 12 returned the next morning to find it stolen, police said.

There was no broken glass found at the scene, which is between 10th and 11th avenues, and no value was given for the car.

#### Appetite for evil

A man walked into a 77th Street tavern on Oct. 8 and went on a rampage that caused \$13,000 in damage, cops said.

An employee told police that the man started smashing mirrors, damaging counter tops and destroying the bathroom in the 1 am space at the bar, which is near 13th Avenue.

Employees told police that they had no idea what set the man off.

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## The Diary of Ann Castello

Our pal Ann Castello, a.k.a. the Bensonhurst Bubba, shared with us the diaries she started keeping when she was 11 years old in 1947.

The other day, she sent us this unedited entry from her 12th birthday on June 6, 1948. Reading it, we were immediately transported back to a simpler day — one that we wanted to share with our readers.

So take it away, Ann (age 12):

*"Today is my 12th birthday. I went to the Marlboro [Theater] with Margaret to see 'If You Knew Susie' starring Eddie Cantor. Margaret treated. It was 40 cents each. When we came out, Sam the Ice Cream Man was there and we each got a vanilla cone for 10 cents. Margaret paid again. Nice birthday!!"*

*"We walked back to her house and played two games of jack. I lost both games. I think Margaret cheated. Her parents were going to the J [Bensonhurst Jewish Community Center] and asked us to walk with them."*

*"We watched two innings of basketball and I went home alone. Grandma was at my house and they all sang 'Happy Birthday.' I had cake and Pepsi. Grandma gave me two silver dollars and mom gave me the blue t-shirt sweater set I had wanted. I did homework for a half hour and went to sleep."*

*Good-bye, birthday.*

*Your loyal subject and author-extraordinaire,*

*Ann*

## LOWEN'S...

Continued from page 3  
tually owned by Julius Nasso, who was sentenced to prison in 2003 for conspiring with Gambino crime family members to extort money from the actor Steven Segal.

The quiet image of the store was shattered back in May, when state investigators made their first raid and hauled out \$200,000 in steroids and growth hormones. The Brooklyn Paper reported.

Residents expressed shock — again — that Bay Ridge could be at the heart of a Major League Baseball and NYPD steroid investigation.

"Steroids coming out of Bay Ridge and going to cheating Major Leaguers — are you kidding me?" asked baseball fan Chad Nardine. "I have always liked Lowen's, but this is getting quite strange."

On Wednesday morning, Lowen's was closed with only a sign posted on the door reading: "Due to mechanical problems, we are temporarily closed."

**Win a BIG TURKEY! See Page 11**

# City plan is ferry good in Williamsburg



The city would like to see ferries like this one shuttle people from three new stops in Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city is sifting through several proposals from ferry operators to shuttle commuters between Manhattan and at least three stops in Williamsburg and Greenpoint, an effort that the city hopes will reduce congestion on the roads and also on the overloaded G and L trains.

Last year, the city asked ferry companies for bids to provide year-round service to commuters who would rather avoid streets and subways.

"The Bloomberg Administration is committed to alternative methods of transportation, including additional ferry routes, to reduce traffic congestion in the city," said

EDC spokeswoman Janet Patterson. "We [solicited proposals] and got a good response."

Water taxi companies are chomping at the bit to cash in on the population explosion in Williamsburg and Greenpoint, the city says. More than 27,500 new housing units will be developed by 2013 — all within easy walking distance from existing or potential new ferry landing sites, according to the document the city sent out to the ferry companies.

The year-round ferry service would make at least one round-trip every half hour during morning and evening rush hours, with less frequent service during off-peak hours and on the weekends. Most of the cost would be borne by the private companies,

but the city is offering some incentives, including building "ferry landings and related infrastructure," according to the EDC request for proposals.

The city identified three locations in the area where new landings might be built: two in Greenpoint, one on Green Street and the other on Greenpoint Avenue; and another in North Williamsburg on the site of the planned Northside Piers development, which will include luxury housing along the waterfront between North Fourth and North Fifth streets.

There is an existing ferry station at the Schaefer Landing development a few blocks south of the Williamsburg Bridge. That ferry would be walking distance from the Domino Sugar Plant, where a developer is planning 2,200 units.

## Maujer Street break-in sends senior to hospital

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

### 90th Precinct

A hooligan scared an 80-year-old woman so badly that she needed an ambulance after the 16-year-old suspect broke into her apartment in the middle of the day on Oct. 15.

The victim, who lives on Maujer Street between Bushwick Avenue and Humboldt Street, was at home with her 57-year-old son at about 2 pm when the suspect broke the side window and crawled in to her bedroom.

The suspect ran off when he realized his victim was at home, but the son saw him and later identified him to police, who arrested him the same day.

An emergency medical technician was called to calm down the old lady.

### Chain gang

A 21-year-old McKibbin Court man was robbed at gunpoint on the corner of Bushwick Avenue and Seigel Street on his way home from the subway on Oct. 15.

The victim told police he had just gotten off the L train at the Montrose Avenue stop at around 1:15 am and had walked

## POLICE BLOTTER

about 20 feet from the station when two men approached him, brandished a silver handgun and said, "Take off your chain."

The victim said the robbers took his \$1,500 Cuban link chain with an angel medallion attached, his video iPod, and his Sanyo cellphone.

### Rooftop burgs

A clever thug broke through the roofs of two Morgan Avenue businesses after dark on Oct. 14 and walked off with almost \$20,000 for the night's work.

Cops say the suspect took one business for \$500. But the burglar hit the jackpot at the second store, between Meserole and Scholles streets, where he got \$19,200 from the safe.

### Powers that be

A burglar made off with more than \$4,000 in jewelry from a Powers Street apartment on Oct. 15, cops said.

The 42-year-old victim discovered the robbery at 7 pm, when she returned to the building, which is between Humboldt Street and Bushwick Avenue.

case.

The victim told police the burglar probably used the back door to get into the apartment, since the lock no longer works.

The burglar got away with rings, pendants and chains, including a black pearl ring/pendant set worth \$2,000.

### Cell grab

Two thugs snatched a woman's cellphone right out of her hand while she was making a call on Meserole Street on Oct. 15. The 25-year-old woman said she was between Humboldt Street and Bushwick Avenue when the thief struck.

She gave only a vague description of the two robbers.

### Stolen cycle

A couple of thieves with an appreciation for German engineering stole a BMW motorcycle that had been parked on Boerum Street between Manhattan and Graham Avenues on Oct. 15.

The 34-year-old victim, a tattoo artist, told police he parked his \$10,000 bike at 2 pm and it was gone when he returned at 5:45 pm.

A passerby told the victim that he had seen two men in their 30s push the bike toward a known chop-shop earlier that afternoon.

Police found the bike stashed there early the next morning.

### Brutal rob

A 57-year-old man was beaten unconscious and robbed by four men in a stairwell of the Marcy Houses on Oct. 10, cops said.

The victim told police he was walking down the stairs at 5:30 pm when four men attacked him, beat him until he passed out, took his cellphone and \$20 and left him in the stairwell.

When he regained consciousness about an hour later, he walked to Woodhull Hospital, where he stayed overnight. He reported the robbery the next day.



The new home of Galapagos Art Space, on Main Street in DUMBO, will be green.

## Galapagos's Great Green Way

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Galapagos Art Space — that hipster haven on North Sixth Street that has been Williamsburg's home to outsider performance art since 2003 — is moving to DUMBO next year, and when it does, it's going green.

Its new location on Main Street will be the first performing arts space in the nation recognized by the Green Building Council for its energy efficient, environmental friendly design.

Natural gas will power the spotlights, the sound system and the rest of the electrical appliances in the building. That means it will be off the city's electrical grid entirely (though fossil fuel, albeit the cleaner-burning natural gas, will still be used).

Recycled rainwater will flush through the building's toilets and flow through its sinks (though drinking water, fortunately, will still come from city pipes). And the roof itself will be transformed into an urban meadow with trees, local grasses and flowers.

More than 50 Brooklyn projects — including 15 buildings in the Atlantic Yards project have registered for the Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, including a planned 158-unit, market-rate apartment building at 184 Kent Ave. in Williamsburg and the NYPD impound lot at the Navy Yard.

Going green will save on the space's energy costs, reduce its impact on the environment and allow it to produce more of the work Galapagos has become famous for, like a skit/le quartet, a hula-hoop bar-leque show, and unusual puppeteers.

"In Williamsburg, we've had to add commercial programming, like DJs and bands that play until 2 am, just to sustain ourselves," Galapagos Director Robert Elmes told The Brooklyn Paper.

"By building a green and energy-efficient building, we can produce more of the kind of non-commercial work that otherwise wouldn't be able to find a home in New York City because we'd be saving so much on our energy costs."

Elmes said the art space started looking for new digs earlier this year. Before they found a spot at 16 Main St., just down the block from St. Ann's Warehouse and power-house arena, they were ready to quit the city — and the country — altogether.

"We were half-packed to go to Berlin," Elmes told The Brooklyn Paper. "We didn't see how we could survive in New York."

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## It's Hollywood magic!

### Movie crew tosses dough around Brooklyn

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Who said Hollywood types are heartless: after turning Brooklyn Heights into their own back lot, the Coen Brothers have started spreading some major green throughout the neighborhood.

"This is our way of giving back, so that people understand that we're not taking advantage," said Amanda Foley, location manager for Ethan and Joel Coen's mystery, "Burn After Reading," which brought George Clooney, Brad Pitt, John Malkovich, Frances McDormand and other stars to Clark, Hicks and State streets.

The Brooklyn Heights Association got the biggest bank of largesse, taking in \$10,000 from the big-screen brothers.

"When movies and film crews come to Brooklyn Heights they don't always reach out to us, so it was nice that 'Burn After Reading' came to us first. We're grateful for their generous gift," said Brooklyn Heights Association Executive Director Judy Stanton.

Stanton said the board might decide to use a portion of the gift to expand and update its guide to the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.

Other beneficiaries of the Coen Brothers' generosity include the HOPE Program, a Smith Street charity that helps disadvantaged and chronically unemployed people find jobs (which got \$2,000); the St. Francis College scholarship fund (\$1,000); PS 8 (\$1,000); and the State Street Block Association (\$1,000).

Foley said the production also wanted to send \$1,000 to Community Board 2, but the board would rather pass that along to a deserving charity — so they're trying to decide who will get their gift.



One man's set is another neighborhood's block. But now the Coen Brothers are paying local groups for the privilege of turning Brooklyn Heights into a backlot.

## Answers to neighborhood quiz:

- 1) b 3) c 5) a 7) a 9) b 11) a 13) b 15) c 17) a 19) b 21) b 23) c  
2) a 4) d 6) d 8) d 10) c 12) b 14) a 16) a 18) b 20) c 22) b 24) c  
25) b

### Key: if you got:

0-5 questions correct: Go back to art school, you wannabe.

6-10 questions correct: You probably think Peter Luger's is kosher.

11-15 questions correct: Your neighbors will start saying hello to you in a year or two.

16-20 questions correct: You belong on the community board.

20-25 questions correct: You don't need our congratulations. You're probably already the mayor of some Greenpoint or Williamsburg block.



# Game over: Park Slope is B'klyn's best nabe

By Adam F. Hutton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Take that, Slope-haters: for the second time in as many years, the neighborhood you love to hate has been named one of the best in the country.

Like it or not, the American Planning Association honored Park Slope for its greatness two weeks ago and *Natural Home* magazine named it one of America's 10 best neighborhoods last year.

"Park Slope is a testament to the value of economic, architectural and cultural diversity," said APA Executive Director Paul Farmer.

The APA identified the cream of the crop by using criteria including "architectural features, accessibility, functionality, and community involvement." *Natural Living* looked at indicators such as parks, farmers markets, community gardens, access to mass transit, locally owned businesses and liberal activism when it

pointed to Park Slope as a great place to live and work.

Of course, awards always wind up tasting a bit like sour grapes for the contenders who don't win them.

Community leaders in other Brooklyn neighborhoods were gracious when discussing Park Slope's honor with The Brooklyn Paper. But they were also eager to describe why the quality of life in their neighborhoods deserves recognition as well.

"I think Park Slope is wonderful, but Clinton Hill is fantastic, too," said Sharon Barnes, chair of the landmarks committee for the Society for Clinton Hill. "We have a strong representation of artists, writers and entrepreneurs that gives us an atmosphere of creativity."

"We have gorgeous brownstones, fantastic stand-alone mansions and some wonderful industrial buildings that are architecturally interesting,"

Fort Greene ain't chopped liver either said Ursula Hegewisch, chair of the Fort Greene Association.

"I hope the APA comes back next year and takes a closer look at Fort Greene," Hegewisch said.

The association should visit the Smoke Joint on South Elliott Place for some barbecue then hop over to Frank's Lounge for some live jazz, and head over to Cake Man Raven's for dessert, she said. They might also consider Fort Greene's great schools like Brooklyn Tech and The Brooklyn Music and Arts Program, Hegewisch added. Fort Greene's cultural institutions like BAM and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporian Arts also can't be overlooked, she said.

But no matter how many national magazines and associations point out the superiority of the Slope over other neighborhoods, there will always be critics who aren't as kind. In fact, the more honors it receives, the more haters it attracts. Examples include:

• The Brooklyn Rail recently ran a column, "Invasion of the Stroller-Friars," by a former Manhattanite

who had been in the neighborhood for one year when he decided that all of those breeders have ruined the Tea Lounge, which he described as his "Beautiful new café-office."

• Gothamist gave plenty of space to a woman whose "best" with Park Slope seemed limited to her concern that members of the neighborhood's members-only food co-op are "cut off" from "the truly urban experience of going to the deli."

• Gawker, a bastion of Slope-hating, recently puzzled over why locals weren't thrilled with the idea of more condos in the neighborhood, even if they will replace a former hot street hotel. "Can't figure these Slopers out," the Web site whined. "Neighbors are just angrier."

"Why Hating Park Slope Just Makes Us Look Bad," one writer confessed that the obsession is really rooted in jealousy. "Brownstone Brooklyn is pretentious and prohibitively expensive and full of self-righteous smug-



NPR-listening liberals who are willing to get into a war over a gender pronoun. But deep down, is there any other place you can imagine being an adult in this city? The only reason left to hate Park Slope is that you're jealous of the people who can afford to live there."

• Curbed.com gleefully recounted a story "from the land of the upscale stroller" involving a mother who got cut off by a car and then hurled a can of beans at its rear window.

"So, were they organic vegetarian beans from the Food Co-op?" Curbed commented.

There it was, the tired old canard linking organic food and elitism, said Roslyn Huebner who has been selling real estate for 20 years.

"Hogs are snarky, hateful and cruel just because they can be. Park Slopers are just carving out the best lifestyles they can for themselves. I've never seen a smug parent coming out of the health-food store on Seventh Avenue."

## FEEDBACK

# America speaks: Graffiti Girl proves NY stinks



The Brooklyn Paper received more e-mails and comments regarding its front page story on 6-year-old "graffiti" vandal Natalie Shea (left) than on any story in its 29-year history ("New face of vandalism," Oct. 13). True, the ease of Internet communication and the nature of modern blogging played a role, but there's no question that Shea's story touched people in ways in which they are not usually touched. Here's a sampling:

To the editor,

OK, this is retarded. Calling the cops just because she was drawing on the sidewalk with chalk is retarded and those people need to grow up!

The neighbors should be minding their own business. If drawing on the sidewalk was a crime, the company should have never made the chalk.

Sarah Loeffler, Stafford, England

To the editor,

Are you freakin' kidding us? Please say you're kidding, right? What's next? Ticketing a little innocent girl or boy for not doing his or her chores on time? That's it — let's all give up. Throw in the towel. We are now fully prepared for ripping up our once valued Constitution to live free without prejudice in this once great country, and how to the New World.

God bless America.

Ken Walker, Northern California

Web comment:

How disgusting. Juvenile names usually don't appear in the paper unless it is desired by a parent. You newspaper people and the people you promote (tart stars) are pathetic and more transparent than Windows on glass

on a windy day.

Here is a case of some family deciding the 6-year-old needed an early start with the media. Next week, it will be the same child in a detention center and the next year in jail.

Give us a break you creeps! Richard W

To the editor,

I would LOVE to send this little girl a huge bucket of chalk, with every color they make!

Jenny Bea, Fairfield, Conn.

To the editor,

I've listened to Editor Gersh Kuntzman on the BBC a few times in the past and I do hope he'll bring up the case of the 6-year old graffiti artist next time he's on Radio Five's "New York Hour" ("New face of vandalism," Oct. 13). We have equality stupid laws over here, too.

Tony Draper, Liverpool

Web comment:

I think a ton of people should go to the neighborhood with chalk and make pretty drawings. See that neighbor's face when everyone is doing it. It washes away with a little water. So ban together and start drawing.

Propriet

This absolutely is graffiti and should be

dealt with appropriately by the authorities, no matter the age of the offender. Children like her need to learn a lesson about common decency and not to mar our sidewalks with unsightly drawings and child's games. This is no different than not cleaning up after one's dog!

HomeLand Security and the police are busy enough dealing with terrorist threats without having to deal with out-of-control teens!

Lara Kawchinski

To the editor,

The neighbor who called in Natalie's "crime" is the Wicked Witch of the East! That's about the only person who would be bothered by that kind of art!

Natalie's neighbors should rise up against the person who made the call to 311. If I lived on the block, I would report them for everything until they got the message!

Kids have it tough enough in today's world and these kids should be encouraged to continue their creative activities.

Let's channel our energy toward things in our neighborhoods that really matter! The complainant needs to get a life and stop the pettiness! Larry Kalteich, Battle Ground, WA

Web comment:

People care too much about the letter of the law and not its spirit. Anyone with common sense can see that the girl is doing no wrong. If I were the girl's parents, I would just throw that notice in the trash and if the city tried to make a stink about it, tell them to shove it.

## Delivery Opt out

Every week, we deliver copies of The Brooklyn Paper to homes in designated neighborhoods. Our unique system limits deliveries to just a few papers per building (eliminating the kind of clutter caused by circular and menu delivery services). We hope everyone appreciates our free home delivery, but realize that there will be exceptions. So, if you've received The Paper at home and no longer want this free service, we've made it easy for you to "opt out" of home delivery. You can also report any delivery problem (including missed delivery, or too many papers being delivered).

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

## LETTERS

# GAPCo leader demands: Take me to your editor!

To the editor,

The Grand Army Plaza Coalition is pleased that The Brooklyn Paper recognizes both the significance of the city's ongoing modifications to Grand Army Plaza, and also GAPCo's contributions to the conversation ("Island paradise," Oct. 6). The article was well reported, entertainingly written, and a contribution to the public's awareness of the pertinent issues. However, in order to keep the record straight, we feel compelled to offer a few corrections.

GAPCo (an umbrella organization for community stakeholders, neighborhood groups and local institutions focused on improving the public experience of the Plaza) is not dictating any one vision or set of solutions. Rather, GAPCo is a facilitating an ongoing, iterative discussion whereby the stakeholders can create a consensus vision for a Plaza that works better for all users — pedestrians, motorists and cyclists. We have not endorsed any of the specific changes mentioned, although each of them is certainly "on the table."

We did think your characterization of Department of Transportation Downtown Brooklyn Coordinator Chris Hromes's role in this process was glib and unfair. Hromes is a Prospect Heights resident and professional urban planner. Prior to accepting his job at DOT, he lent his expertise to GAPCo, conducting our 2006 walk-through and writing the subsequent report on the numerous problems and opportunities for improvement. This hardly makes him "radical" or an "agitator"; rather we find him a model citizen and public servant committed to the betterment of his community. We would hate to think that your dramatization of his role might bring his integrity into question.

As always, any information on GAPCo can be found at [GrandArmyPlaza.org](http://GrandArmyPlaza.org). The letter was signed by GAPCo Coordinator Rob Wilentz and steering committee members Michael Carl and Aaron Niparstek.

## Pay to play

To the editor,

Your recent article about the port shenanigans in Red Hook is nothing new ("Money muddies port support," Oct. 13). Past reports released by the Campaign Finance Board should be must reading for all intelligent voters. The reports document the relationship between campaign contributors and candidates running for office.

Independent government observers know there is a political quid pro quo expected by those who represent various special interest groups in exchange for campaign donations. This is known as "pay for play" around City Hall. How can Council Speaker Christine Quinn — or any other 2009 citywide candidate — represent the interest of taxpayers when accepting campaign contributions from

those working for or doing business with the city?

The appearance of a conflict of interest is obvious.

Log on to the Web site of the Campaign Finance Board ([www.nyc.gov/cfb](http://www.nyc.gov/cfb)). The contributors and campaign expenditures for Quinn, and her term-limited colleagues running for higher office in 2009 will illustrate who is making investments today in return for future favors at taxpayers' expense to none.

Larry Pernes, Great Neck

## NY-Youse

To the editor,

Your recent report that New York University may seek a merger with Polytechnic ("NYU eyes Brooklyn," Aug. 18) recalls a bit of forgotten history. In addition to the well-known Washington Square location of NYU, the school also had a University Heights campus in the West Bronx from 1898 to 1973.

That campus contained the University College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering, both full, four-year colleges. In the 1960s, NYU decided to take advantage of that on-engineering boom by greatly expanding the Engineering School. But that school suffered massive losses when that boom went bust — and as a result, NYU as a whole had deficits in the millions.

In 1971, NYU put the University Heights campus on the block, selling it to City University as a home for Bronx Community College. In 1974, the NYU School of Engineering merged with what was then called "Brooklyn Polytechnic."

For information on starting a nonlateral

feline management program, visit: [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org).

Elizabeth Parowski, Bethesda, MD

The writer is a program manager at Alley Cat Allies.

Alley Cat Allies.

## Is your editor an idiot?

To the editor,

Your editorial about the Atlantic Yards case was wrong ("A Yards case is strong," Oct. 13).

Of course, plaintiff's lawyer Matthew Brincherhoff did not "reargue" Kelo, as you put it. As we now know, the scenario in the Kelo case was exactly the same as Atlantic Yards: the developer approached government, and suggested the "redevelopment."

I discuss this revelation in my book, "The Enminent Domain Revolt: Changing Perceptions in a New Constitutional Epoch" (Algon, 2006).

Actually, it's clear that everyone on the Supreme Court knew [New London's argument] was a lie and a scam. So why didn't the Institute for Justice press it at the trial level? Because they're a right-wing, crypto-fascist organization and didn't do their homework when Kelo was at the trial stage.

So your conclusion — namely, that "New London did not take the private property to benefit the private developer who would build the Pfizer plant; indeed, the identity of the developer was determined only after a proper bidding process" — is simply not true at all.

Whoever wrote that editorial is a complete uninformed idiot.

Editor's note: We differ with Ryskamp's reading of the case.

John Ryskamp

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October 20, 2007

# 'HISTORY' REWRITES ITSELF

## On Wikipedia, DeBlasio's bio keeps changing

Who's changing it, and why does Bill DeBlasio even have a Wikipedia page?

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper



Councilman Bill DeBlasio

It's Wiki-history!  
An online encyclopedia listing for a Brooklyn councilman is being repeatedly edited by a city employee to emphasize (and hide) the councilman's position on two controversial development projects.

In a twist reminiscent of the memory hole in "1984," someone is talking Councilman Bill DeBlasio's entry in the online encyclopedia Wikipedia for political purposes. But who's doing it? It's almost impossible to say, although one culprit is known to be working from a city government Internet connection.

on hot-button issues. But unlike the memory holes of Orwell's dystopia, Wikipedia editors leave a "paper" trail, making it possible to view a record of all changes made to any listing.

The most recent changes, first reported on the blog, *Paradise Me For Asking*, involve the insertion and deletion of a paragraph about whether DeBlasio is in tune with his constituents.

One version began: "DeBlasio has recently been criticized by his constituents for his continued support of large scale real-estate projects being built in Brooklyn. Despite widespread opposition by neighborhood groups, DeBlasio continues to promote unpopular developments that are excessive in size and not in the context of the surrounding neighborhoods."

On several occasions, the paragraph — and others like it — have been edited out, and then restored. Currently, the paragraph is not part of DeBlasio's entry.

A spokesman for the City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication said the agency could not easily determine which city computer system — whose IP address is recorded whenever edits are made — is being used to alter DeBlasio's Wikipedia page because so many individual computers have the same IP address.

But this much is clear: Seven times between June 28 and July 2, that same city computer system changed DeBlasio's page — sometimes to burnish his image, other times to diminish it.

The most recent edit from the city computer was a pro-DeBlasio change: The original paragraph — "DeBlasio is also a supporter of the generally unpopular Atlantic Yards development, which critics contend will be excessive in size, provide major tax subsidies to the developer and will have a detrimental impact upon the neighborhood."

oper and will have a detrimental impact upon the neighborhood" — was pulled out and replaced, "DeBlasio is a supporter of the generally popular Atlantic Yards development, which is a major mixed-income housing, retail, office and sports complex." (See box.)

Another time, the person at the city computer added this anti-DeBlasio sentence: "He is a highly controversial figure, known for his alliances with anti-development and NIMBY homeowners and has been accused of grandstanding on development issues." The back-and-forth from the same city computer indicates that more than one person may be logging on to flag and praise DeBlasio.

Wiki-wars flare up frequently. Earlier this year, Capitol Hill staffers were found to be manipulating Wikipedia entries for members of Congress.

And two years ago, a Wikipedia hoaxer posted that journalist John Seigenthaler was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The error was quickly fixed (and now the whole affair has its own Wikipedia page).

For now, at least, the DeBlasio camp says it is not concerned by what appears on Wikipedia.

"Anyone who is an intelligent person knows that Wikipedia is not reliable because anyone can go on to say anything about anyone," said John Weinberg, DeBlasio's press secretary. "That's OK. It's a public page. But they're not fact-checking." Weinberg also denies that anyone working in DeBlasio's office made the edits.

## Wiki war wages

It's easy to change history by editing someone's Wikipedia page. Here's how someone has altering reality by changing Councilman Bill DeBlasio's Wikipedia entry.

**BEFORE**  
"DeBlasio is also a supporter of the generally unpopular Atlantic Yards development, which critics contend will be excessive in size, provide major tax subsidies to the developer and will have a detrimental impact upon the neighborhood."

**AFTER**  
"DeBlasio is a supporter of the generally popular Atlantic Yards development, which is a major mixed-income housing, retail, office and sports complex."

Source: Wikipedia

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**Cake Man is bakin' good in the 'hood**

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

One of Brooklyn's celebrity bakers will soon start selling his beloved red velvet cake at your local Applebee's, a chain restaurant most famous for its ribs.

Cake Man Raven, who has been riding a wave of fame ever since he created a huge red velvet cake shaped like Borough Hall to commemorate Marty Markowitz's first inauguration in 2002, has inked a deal with Apple-Metro, which operates 25 Applebee's and two Chevy's Fresh Mex restaurants, and a Zazun's Italian restaurant in the New York area.

But don't call it a sell-out for Cake Man, also known as Raven Patrick De Sean Dennis III. "Nothing will be different between these cakes at Applebee's and the cakes I sell at my store" at 705 Fulton St. in Fort Greene, Raven assured The Brooklyn Paper this week, hours before he was set to fly to Trinidad to bake a red velvet cake for a politician there.

"This won't be a frozen product. It won't be manufactured at the Applebee's restaurant. It will be from our bakery in East New York."

A spokesman for Apple-Metro added that Raven will be making "frequent personal, in-store visits" at the Applebee's at Flatbush and DeKalb avenues in Fort Greene to check on the quality of his product.

That location is directly across the street from Junior's, which Applebee's has been battling for years. Signing Raven, said Apple-Metro CEO Zane Tinkel, supercharges the rivalry.

"From now on," he said, "people won't just be flocking to downtown Brooklyn for cheese-cake."

Raven has owned his own store since relocating from Harlem in 2000, but it was that inaugural cake that made his reputation. Since then, he has shipped cakes all over the globe and served his confections at the Grammy Awards, the ESPYs, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

He said the deal with Apple-Metro would allow him to expand his operation from 10 full-time employees to 30.

"This is what we have to do to go to the next level," he said.

Of course, the food world is littered with the soiled toques of chefs who tried to go to the next level too quickly (Soup Nazi, anyone?).

But Raven said his cakes would not decline in quality because he is contractually obligated to remain hands-on.

"I'm going to train all the waiters and waitresses to know that the cake can't be served if it's too dry," he added. "The whole goal is to maintain the quality."

And take on Junior's.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 20, 2007

# Mind your tempah

V-Spot sibs hope boro-wide celebration appeals to veggie virgins

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Carnivores be advised: October is "World Vegetarian Month." To celebrate the vegetarian and vegan lifestyle, "Brooklyn Goes Veg!" is sponsoring a month-long series of raffles, talks and the "First Annual Vegetarian Restaurant Week."

Participating in the weeklong affair are eight eateries throughout the borough that specialize in meatless fare, including Park Slope's The V-Spot. V-Spot, which claims to be the Slope's only vegan restaurant, kicked off the "First Annual Vegetarian Restaurant Week" on Thursday with a raffle and giveaway of 100 free meals. From Oct. 21-27, V-Spot's owners, brothers Alex and Dan Carabano, are offering a three-course, \$28 prix-fixe dinner that includes an appetizer, entree, dessert and non-alcoholic beverage.

"Anything that promotes vegetarians and vegans is something I want to be a part of," said Dan.

"Brooklyn Goes Veg!" is a project of Hol-Life Industries, founded by Melissa Haile, a Bedford-Stuyvesant-based holistic health counselor who "helps people trying to make the transition from meat-eating to a plant-based diet," according to the organization's Web site. Its purpose is to "promote and increase awareness of plant-based diets for healthier living."

The V-Spot proprietors also enjoy extolling the virtues of vegetarianism. The Sunset Park siblings have been changing the minds of vegetarian diners since their opening in July



Where's the beef?: As part of the First Annual Vegetarian Restaurant Week, V-Spot co-owner Dan Carabano invites the borough to enjoy a three-course, \$28 prix-fixe dinner at his Park Slope restaurant.

2006. Neither had restaurant experience, but hunger drove them to open V-Spot.

"We really like the neighborhood and enjoy eating here, but Dan [a vegan for six years] had a hard time finding restaurants in

the area for a meal. We realized there was no place catering just to vegetarians or vegans in Park Slope," said Alex, who became a vegetarian two years ago.

"Our goal is to break negative stereotypes the public may have about vegan cuisine," he added.

Their first swing at demolishing the hemp-curtained vegan restaurant stereotype: create an environment that is as comfortably sophisticated as any bistro along Fifth Avenue. The brothers placed expansive windows in the front of the dining room; the tables are dark wood; and the brick walls, where painter Martine Silva's abstract canvases hang, serve as a gallery for local artists.

At first glance, the cafe's menu reads like that of any casual bistro with "Buffalo chicken," "burgers" and a "BLT club"; however, anything on the roundup that sounds like meat isn't.

svette celebs like Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and Drew Barrymore.

At 5-foot-7 and 128 pounds, I'm not desperate to lose weight. For the most part, I've come to terms with my not-so-zero frame.

But a small part of me wants to get back to the 10 months that I was at my skinniest: following a break-up and a bout of food poisoning, I dropped to 118, and stayed there for nearly a year. Pettijohn's cleanse is not designed specifically for weight loss — its goals are cleansing,

See **CLEANSE** on page 14



Colin Carew serves up "Daily Green" at Jill's Cafe.

## DINING

For a complete list of restaurants participating in the "First Annual Vegetarian Restaurant Week," Oct. 21-27, call (867) 241-5028 or visit [www.brooklynvegweek.com](http://www.brooklynvegweek.com). The V-Spot Cafe (156 Fifth Ave., between Douglas and DeGraw streets, in Park Slope) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$14-\$18. The cafe's "restaurant week" offer is a three-course \$28 prix-fixe menu. V-Spot serves dinner on Monday evenings and is open 11 am-10 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Lunch is available on weekends, 11 am-4 pm. Subway: R to Union Street. [www.thespotscafe.com](http://www.thespotscafe.com). For more information, call (718) 622-2275.

"There's no meat products on the menu at all," said Alex. What diners will find on the roundup is a variety of soy and wheat-based ingredients meant more to resemble than mimic the real thing.

"We can't really make the ingredients taste like meat, but we can offer meals with plenty of flavor and texture that will satisfy our customers," said Alex. A small selection of mostly organic wines from international vineyards is available to complement the cuisine.

Order a "chicken cutlet" for instance, and the cafe's cooks, working from the brothers' and a few of their Colombian-born father's recipes, will blend ground tempeh (fermented soybean cake) with lentils, black beans, carrots and peas. The cutlet is then seasoned with a mix of "secret" herbs and spices and then grilled. The smoky taste of the grill and toppings such as guacamole and grilled red peppers may not please a hard-core carnivore, but anyone with a little flexibility would be happy.

Who frequents the place? Alex described his clientele as "a young crowd, hipsters with lots of tattoos who are really nice people." Among them are those who adhere to a strictly vegan diet, vegetarians and meat-eaters.

"Veganism can be a little extreme for some people," Alex said of those who seek to exclude the use of animal-derived products from food and clothing. "But we're seeing more diners in the Slope looking for healthy options."

The brothers hope that "World Vegetarian Month" and "Brooklyn Goes Veg!" will entice people who have shied away from veggie cooking to step in for a meal.

Said Alex, "When diners give our food a try, they're surprised and impressed."

## Coming to terms

Vegetarian dining has evolved way beyond tofu, but really, how many of us even understand what that is? To help you decode the lingo, we've assembled some key terms.

**Gluten:** [pronounced GLEW-in] A protein found in rye, wheat and barley, gluten is what makes bread stretchy and chewy.

**Quinoa:** [pronounced KEEN-wah] Quinoa might be used as a grain when cooking, but it's actually the seed of an herb plant. It's light, fluffy and easy to digest, and higher in protein than any other grain.

**Selten:** [pronounced SAY-tan] Called the "vegetarian

wheat meat" by insiders, selten is made from the gluten in wheat dough. It's brown for its firm texture and as one of the only soy-free meat replacements.

**Soy:** These days you can get just about anything derived from the soybean including milk, yogurt, burgers and chicken nuggets. The following are a few of soy's offspring that you might sink your teeth into.

**Tempeh:** [pronounced TEM-peh] Known for its nutty flavor, high protein content and nougat-like texture.

**Tofu:** [pronounced TO-fo] It might not sound delicious, but tofu is made from curdled soy milk. The curds are then pressed into those nice little cubes.

**Textured Vegetable Protein (TVP):** Derived from soy flour, TVP is commonly used in vegetarian restaurants as a substitute for ground beef.

— Juliana Bunim

## EVENT

### Grave rave

As a kid, I tried to hold my breath whenever we drove past Green-wood Cemetery. Doing so, in combination with crossing my fingers and hoisting my feet off of the floor, was supposed to keep any lingering ghosts from being able to attack me. I never quite outgrew the habit.

So, when I heard about Green-wood's Halloween tours, I was already frightened.

It's fundamentally a historic tour, said tour guide Jeff Richman. "But we do have murders and mayhem and things that pertain to Halloween."

Over the course of the two-and-a-half-hour tour, there are plenty of spooky spots. Richman will take visitors to see Mabel Douglass, known as "the petrified woman" because her corpse was preserved in Lake Placid until it was found 25 years after her death, as well as the famous Fox family, whose daughters tricked the world with their tales of spirits and communication from beyond the grave.

And if the above ground action isn't enough for you, Richman leads his groups into the cemetery's catacombs, an underground chamber where 30 families are buried.

Richman said that while it might sound scary, he's never experienced anything out of the ordinary at the cemetery. But beware — there's always a first time.

"Halloween at Green-wood" begins at 1 pm on Oct. 27 and 28 at Green-wood Cemetery (enter on Fifth Avenue at 25th Street in Green-wood Heights). Admission is \$20. For information, call (718) 768-7300 or visit [www.green-wood.com](http://www.green-wood.com).

— Adam Rathe

## ART



### Go Gowanus

The Gowanus Canal is home to a whole lot more than just its famous green sludge. Next weekend, over 140 visual artists who work in the area surrounding the canal will be showcasing their ceramics, paintings, sculptures, clothing, jewelry and more in the 11th annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour (AGAST).

The up-and-coming nabe has plenty to crow about. There are more artists participating than ever before and, according to AGAST President David Lantow, their work is some of the tour's best ever.

"More and more artists are moving to this area. They're moving from neighborhoods such as DUMBO at this point," said Lantow. "One thing the tour does is give a community feel; you're not just an individual working alone in a studio. And this is a more mature group of artists, meaning that the work is a few notches up from many tours."

Artists — including Tamara Thomsen, whose "A Ruched Life" (pictured in inset), is made of pillows, and Lantow himself (his "UL4" is at top) — will open their studios to an expected crowd of 3,000 visitors.

In hopes of drawing more, AGAST will offer prizes like dinners at local restaurants and art to visitors who get "passports" stamped at four of seven spots throughout the tour.

"The 11th annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour" will take place from 1 to 6 pm on Oct. 20 and 21. Pick up a map at Sheep Station (149 Fourth Ave. at Douglass Street in Gowanus). For studio locations and information, visit [www.agastbrooklyn.com](http://www.agastbrooklyn.com).

— AR



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THE BROOKLYN PAPER



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# BROOKLYN Bites

VEGETARIAN  
Dining Guide

heard of a better reason to knock back a glass of orange-pineapple-wheatgrass juice. Cure your hunger pangs with a trip to the buffet bar that's stocked with regularly changing options like soy drumsticks, collard greens, soy salmon, jerk tofu and different varieties of rice, including fried and sprinched. Flatbush's Veggie Castle may be located in a former White Castle, but you'll relish the fact that the decor is all that's left from the fast food franchise.

## The V-Spot

156 Fifth Ave. at Douglas Street, (718) 622-2275, www.thevspotcafe.com (AmEx, MC, Visa), Entrees: \$10-\$18. \*

Open since 2006, this 100 percent vegetarian cafe, run by brothers Dan and Alex Carabano, dishes out everything from the expected veggie burgers and smoothies to surprising veggie takes on classics like chicken Parmesan and steak and eggs. Sitting near the top of Park Slope's Fifth Avenue, this spot is popular with diners looking to fill up before a concert or night at the bars; hearty meals like the faux-chicken Chop Hero, a grilled "chicken" cutlet topped with guacamole, cream cheese and roasted red peppers, can give you the energy for a night on the town, without any of the meat eater's guilt.

## Bliss

191 Bedford Ave. at North Sixth Street, (718) 599-2547 (Cash only) Entrees: \$4-\$10

Bliss is a slice of heaven for vegetarians seeking more than soy-labeled meat substitutes. This Williamsburg hotspot serves hearty vegan dishes like the seitan steak sandwich, which includes sautéed, homegrown organic seitan, caramelized onions and faux cheese on a whole-wheat roll, and "chili con carne" — grilled cornbread topped with chili, pico de gallo and sour cream, that will make you forget you're at a veggie haunt.

## Foodswings

295 Grand St. at Havemeyer Street, (718) 388-1919, www.foodswings.net (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$7.95.

For vegan food in a hurry, there is no better bet than Williamsburg's Foodswings. This fast food joint has a hearty stock of mock meat dishes up American style: Philly cheesesteaks, burgers, hotdogs and drumsticks — complete with bamboo "bones" — are sure to satisfy when you're craving some down home grub. Late night revelers can cozy up with vegan milkshakes and cookies. And even if you regret that late night binge, at least it was cruelty free.

## Imhotep

734 Nostrand Ave. at Sterling Place, (718) 492-2992 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5-\$12.

The oldest vegetarian restaurant in Brooklyn, Crown Heights' Imhotep offers a full menu of vegan and organic fare. For those looking for a big meal on a skinny budget, try the combination plate; for a mere \$7.50, you get your choice of veggies (like okra, string beans or spinach), rice and beans, chickpeas and three varieties of mock meat. Soy protein is a menu staple, and according to owner Tonde Lumumba, the soy fish (leavened-wingsed soy) and soy barbecue ribs are the most popular offerings. If soy's not your cup of green tea, then go for the roti, an Indian flatbread rolled very thin and filled with curry and potatoes.

## Kate's Brooklyn Joint

295 Berry St. at South Third Street, (718) 218-7167 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$18.

What Kate's Joint lacks in decor, it makes up for in taste. Just past its graffiti-laden concrete exterior lies some sophisticated vegetarian fare. While most mock meat tends to lean more towards faux than food, burgers at this Williamsburg joint are substantial and textured. You can see actual vegetables, rather than the usual soy mash. But don't just go by us; word from the staff is the popular items on Kate's menu are the Buffalo un-chicken wings, the McAfee burger — made with a beef soy substitute, the un-turkey club and the seitan po' boy.

## Red Bamboo

271 Adelphi St. at DeKalb Avenue, (718) 643-4352, www.redbamboobrooklyn.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$12.95.

Vegetarian soul food may sound like a major contradiction, but Red Bamboo does it right — and with a twist. Caribbean soul is heartily dished up in plates of jerk "chickens," mac and cheese and "voodoo sticks" — grilled "beef" and pepper kebabs. The "soul chicken" is the local favorite, manager Kelvin Liu told GO Brooklyn, and he was adamant that it has the texture of real chicken. If you're looking for comfort and compassion, this is the spot.



Making a mockery: At Williamsburg's Foodswings, customer Marisa Butin offers a piece of her mock meat dish, "Buffalo drumsticks."

## Vegetarian Palate

218 Flatbush Ave. at Prospect Place, (718) 623-8808 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5-\$10.

Williamsburg's pan-Asian vegan cafe offers a slew of seitan preparations, including smoked teriyaki and orange, but according to manager Mary Limbu, the most popular dish at Wild Ginger is the black pepper seitan. If seitan isn't your style, dive into a steaming bowl of stir-fried soba noodles, curry stew or pad Thai. If spicy entices you, Limbu said General Tso's soy protein is precisely the fix. Pair it with a mini-iced tea for the perfect hot and cool combination. The pineapple-fried rice is also a hit, and an especially good choice for those looking for a more traditional Asian side.

## Wild Ginger Cafe

212 Bedford Ave. at North Fifth Street, (718) 218-8828 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$11.

Williamsburg's pan-Asian vegan cafe offers a slew of seitan preparations, including smoked teriyaki and orange, but according to manager Mary Limbu, the most popular dish at Wild Ginger is the black pepper seitan. If seitan isn't your style, dive into a steaming bowl of stir-fried soba noodles, curry stew or pad Thai. If spicy entices you, Limbu said General Tso's soy protein is precisely the fix. Pair it with a mini-iced tea for the perfect hot and cool combination. The pineapple-fried rice is also a hit, and an especially good choice for those looking for a more traditional Asian side.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of vegetarian restaurants. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to [www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com) on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at [Curtis@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Curtis@BrooklynPaper.com).

★ = Full review available at [www.BrooklynPaper.com](http://www.BrooklynPaper.com)

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## VEG'ING OUT with the Brooklyn Vegan

With the launch of his Web site in 2004, the blogger known as the Brooklyn Vegan — he prefers anonymity — has become a must-read for news about music and culture in the borough. Having developed a strong local following, Brooklyn Vegan has started throwing parties, and his radio show, "Left of Center," can be heard every Tuesday night at 10 pm on Sirius Satellite Radio.

In honor of "Brooklyn Goes Veg!" [see GO page 11], GO Brooklyn's Adam Rathe caught up with Brooklyn Vegan to get the lowdown on living a meat-free — not taste-free — lifestyle.

**GO Brooklyn:** How long have you been vegan and what made you decide to give up animal products?

**Brooklyn Vegan:** I've been vegan for about 10 years. Giving up all animal products was a slow process that started with just a feeling, and grew to an action, as I learned more about the animal industry. Before I was vegan, I was vegetarian for about two years — that meant I still ate a lot of pizza.

**GO:** What do you think the best vegan dish at any Brooklyn restaurant is?

**BV:** That's a tough one. Does dessert count? I'm a huge fan of the "Peanut Butter Bomb" cake made by "Vegan Treats" that's available at many restaurants. Although I try to be as healthy as possible, most of my favorites are either dessert or fried.

Vegan restaurants like Foodswings, V-Spot, Vegetarian Palate and Red Bamboo have no lack of fried, fake "meat here" dishes, and they're all usually pretty good.

My favorite vegan meal is brunch,



The Brooklyn Vegan likes vegetables, but not being photographed.

and lately I've really been enjoying the brunch at V-Spot.

There are also two non-vegan restaurants in Park Slope that I get really excited about. One is Pizza Plus on Seventh Avenue, [that] recently reopened after being wiped out by a fire.

They have the option of vegan soy cheese on your pizza, which is extremely rare for a real New York pizza place. Human Delight on Sixth Avenue and Union Street has a separate vegeta-

tarian menu, and I think it's the best vegetarian Chinese food anywhere.

Veggie Castle in Flatbush — a [vegetarian] Caribbean and soul-food restaurant housed in an old White Castle — is probably my favorite restaurant of all. That might be because I rarely make the trek over there to experience it, but nonetheless, there's nothing else like it, except maybe Veggie Castle II in Queens, which I've never been to.

**GO:** And what dish do you miss most from your non-vegan days?

**BV:** Cheese.

**GO:** Where in the borough can you score clothes that are vegan-friendly?

**BV:** I don't buy much more than jeans and T-shirts in Brooklyn. Unfortunately, for the hard stuff like non-leather shoes and belts, I'm usually heading over to Manhattan or ordering online.

**GO:** Does Brooklyn beat out other boroughs in terms of being easy to maneuver for vegetarians and vegans?

**BV:** Williamsburg, Park Slope and the East Village are probably the best three places for vegans to live in the world, I think.

**GO:** What are the strictest diet rules you've come across, like those people who only eat nuts?

**BV:** I haven't met anyone nutty like that, but sometimes I meet someone who only eats raw food. A raw diet is vegan, but also excludes anything cooked. I could never do that, and I'm not a fan of the creative creations they come up with at raw food restaurants. Not surprisingly, most of them don't stay open for very long.

**GO:** Are there any great secret vegan specialties in Brooklyn?

**BV:** Thanks to Brooklyn's ethnic diversity, there's no lack of accidental "vegan" options. Falafel, hummus and spinach pies are staples in my diet. For those, try Saladi's or one of the many other Middle Eastern food places along Atlantic Avenue. I also like Oasis — right outside the L train on Bedford Avenue and North Seventh Street in Williamsburg.

**T**his week we're saying hello to **Lokal** (905 Lorimer St. at Bedford Avenue in Greenpoint), the Mediterranean restaurant opening for drinks this weekend and dinner within the next week. It can't be soon enough for Greenpointers who are sick of crossing McCarren Park to try a new restaurant.

Also opening is **Speakeasy** (at the corner of Waverly and Greene avenues in Fort Greene), the eatery being helmed by "Top Chef" reality

**BREAKING**



**CHEWS**

show alum Josie Smith-Malave. Friends and neighbors are already being served her high-end comfort food and doors should be open to the public any day.

But onto each plate a little rain must fall, while enjoying a hearty fall meal at **Lodge** (518 Grand St. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg) last week, our waitress Molly let it

slip that the beloved turkey meatloaf was on its last legs. Replacing it will be roasted turkey; it's definitely nothing to turn your nose up at, but we'll miss the meatloaf nonetheless.

Farewell to long-time Park Slope resident **Beso**. People say it was nothing special, but GO Brooklyn knows the truth and will remember it fondly.

Congratulations to Zach Schulman and Graham Kelly for taking home the grand prize at casserole queen (and GO Brooklyn contributor) Emily Farris's third annual Casserole Party on Oct. 16. The boys won prizes from The Brooklyn Kitchen and Word bookstore, and their "Cheese Love" casserole will grace the menu at **Brooklyn Label** (180 Franklin St. at Java Street in Greenpoint) for the next month.

Got a hot dining tip? Drop us a line at [BreakingChews@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:BreakingChews@BrooklynPaper.com). — Adam Rathe

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# Haunted house

## Ridge Rep's 'Gillian' is a great ghost story

By Deirdre Donovan  
for The Brooklyn Paper

**T**he secret is I'm dead. Very, very dead.

No one but Gillian, the title character in Michael Brady's "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday," could speak those words with more resounding authority. After all, she's been dead two years when the play begins, having died in a boating accident on her 35th birthday. Returning now as a ghost, she must die once again (in the world of the play) to jolt her surviving husband David out of his funk and back to a meaningful life.

Sound eerie? Not as mounted in its current production by the Ridge Repertory Company at the Bay Ridge Jewish Center. Gillian, as played by Andrea Blake, is a full-blooded ghost, onstage with upswipe blonde hair and a full, curvy figure. And David, aptly played by Fred Milani, is the portrait of a faithful husband, looking at Gillian with the unblinking eyes of a spaniel. Both actors are willing to take bold chances here, and plunge into their roles where the natural and supernatural fuse seamlessly together.

This is a heaven-sent assignment for director James Martinelli, who succeeds in injecting it with fresh life and verve.

The miraculous thing about this incarnation at the Bay Ridge Jewish Center is that Brady's 1983 play still holds up. In spite of the fact that some of its references to popular culture might not chime with the younger generation (Ann Landers, anybody?), the play's strength is its sympathetic characters. These characters are viable; people you could meet in real life and care about.

Because the plot involves frequent visits from Gillian, there's a will-o'-the-



**'Til death:** Dee Beider's Rachel, at left, and Fred Milani's David in the Ridge Repertory Company's new production of "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday."

wisp quality to its unfolding action. In fact, the plot is peppered with many verbal circumlocutions, flashbacks (to the boating accident), and seeming non-sequiturs. But make no mistake, this author knows his dramatic terrain; this is a well-crafted play and no scene is accidental.

Even so, I feared that the cast wouldn't be up to the psychological nuances of its parts. Not to worry, Milani's David seemed anchored in his role from the get-go and Blake as Gillian had no vacuous apparition or stage gimmick; in-

stead Blake's Gillian nicely registered the sea changes of her personality from has-been wife to first-rate ghost. She insinuates, rather than imposes herself,

into her scenes. In fact, her character becomes like that proverbial onion, unpeeling the layers of her personality to the core, and then literally vanishing into thin air in her final scene. Blake's character possesses the quintessential magic of the play, and she rises to the dramatic moment time and again in refreshing ways.

Don't expect to see a high-tech set here, although the lighting design by Elliot Lanes brings just enough radiance to the romantic scenes, and deftly tones down the quieter moments in the play. The entire set has been culled from the attics and basements of the Bay Ridge community. (In fact, the audience member sitting directly in front of me declared that the genuine wood frame window on stage was from his Maine home.) While some sets insist you notice their special effects, this innovative one invites you to accept its homespun value.

I admit to enjoying this play more than I expected. It was a no-frills production on a shoestring budget, but the exuberance of the cast under Martinelli's unswerving direction made the show spring to life. After spending hours with these characters, I dare anybody not to take them to heart.

## WAITING IN THE WINGS

GO's definitive guide to what's next in local theater

On Saturday, Oct. 20, Bishop Ford High School in Windsor Terrace will stage **"The Front Page,"** the 1928 play about newspaper reporters. As experts on newswoman drama, we sure hope that they're cor-

rect in calling this a comedy. For information, call (718) 360-2510. ... Beginning Oct. 20 at DUMBO's St. Ann's Warehouse, the National Theater of Scotland imports its smash production **"Black Watch,"** a look at the Scottish army's experience in the Iraq war. For information, visit www.stannswarehouse.org. ... Stages on the Sound, a non-profit theater company in Downtown Brooklyn will be presenting the first-ever performance at St. James Cathedral Pavilion, William Shakespeare's **"Comedy of Errors,"** through Oct. 28. For information, call (212) 868-4444. ... On Nov. 1, the Czechoslovak American Marionette Theater will bring its production of

**"Hamlet, Prince of Denmark"** to an unlikely performance space, Jane's Crouched in DUMBO. Five live actors and an army of puppets will stage the Bard's greatest tragedy as a musical. For information, call (212) 868-4444. ... Beginning Nov. 2, the Narrows Community Theater of Bay Ridge will present a six-show run of **"The Music Man"** — now 50 years old! — directed by J. Michaels, who has worked extensively on and off Broadway and is currently NCT's acting teacher and director. For information, call (718) 482-3173.

Got a tip on an upcoming show? We want to know! Drop us a line at GO@BrooklynBrooklynPaper.com.

—Adam Rathe

## CLEANSE...

Continued from page 11

detoxifying, rejuvenating and healing — but I figured that losing a few pounds as a side-effect of "detoxifying" would be a welcome occurrence.

I went to Jill's Cafe, Pettijohn's Court Street restaurant, to speak to her before I began my healing journey. She is a life woman with flowing white hair whose radiant skin makes her ageless. Clad in white linen, she quickly explained the fast to me in her lifting New Zealand accent. It would be a series of juices, six each day for five days to be punctuated by large glasses of water.

"Are you a coffee drinker?" she inquired. I'm a desperate caffeine addict and had a moment of fear that she would bar me from my morning salvation.

"One cup in the morning is OK," she told me, "but try to switch to herbal tea after that."

We decided that I would begin her "Nutritional Cleanse" the following Monday.

I went to bed Sunday night alternatively scared and excited. When I woke up on Monday, I made my customary coffee — but this time black, without milk and sugar to interrupt the detoxifying powers of the juices. I retrieved my six tabs of juice from Pettijohn's at around 8, and brought them home excitedly. I took out the first mixture: the "Daily Green." (Each juice is labeled so you know the order in which you should be drinking them.)

The Daily Green looked like the August sludge that rings most stagnant bodies of water. I tried to ignore the aesthetic turn-off of the drink and reserve judgment until I poured it down my gullet. I lifted it to my lips and took a huge swallow of the thick mixture that tasted like pureed celery with a tinge of something more sinister and oceanic as an aftertaste.

In a word: inedible.

For the next hour, I tried to down smaller gulps, but my stomach rejected it. I ran to the bathroom at least twice, thinking I might lose my proverbial cookies. I even tried holding my nose, thinking that if I could somehow get past the taste, I could drink the whole thing quickly. That didn't work either.

I ended up dribbling the verdant mixture down the front of my shirt.

"Maybe I'll have better luck with the next juice," I thought.

"Cherry Lemonade," that sounds pleasant but the viscous consistency and sour flavor made it equally unpalatable. I tried to sweeten it with Splenda, thinking I might be able to down it that way (even though the artificial sweetener would be completely against the rules).

But it still triggered my gag reflex.

It had only been three hours.

## DINING

Jill Pettijohn's five-day "Nutritional Cleanse" liquid diet is \$415 and available through Jill's Cafe (231 Court St. at Baltic Street in Cobble Hill). Jill's Cafe accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. For more information, call (718) 797-0330 or visit www.jillscfe.com.

and I was ready to call it a day. I made a plate of eggs and chucked the rest of the juices in the trash. I felt terribly guilty about cheating so quickly, but so kept up the illusion of continuing the fast for the next two days. I dutifully picked up my juices, hoping flavors like buttermilk squash or apple with fresh basil would taste better, but I couldn't manage more than a sip of any of the juices before tossing them. At one point I even looked to my boyfriend for a second opinion; he took a sniff of the "Daily Green" and wasn't about to go any further.

"Wasting food is such a crime," I thought. I'm sure there's some new age Carroll Gardens matron who would take these juices off my hands in a second.

By Thursday, I was too busy with work to keep up the farce. Jill, a hands-on woman who seems to really care about her cleanse-ees, e-mailed me to ask me how I was doing with my juices.

"Thanks so much for checking in — everything is going well," I replied.

And in a way, everything was going well. My inability to suffer in the name of losing weight made me realize that I'm finally content with my body. I'm unwilling to endure five days of misery just for a flat stomach. I'll never experience the transcendence and clear skin that I do truly believe goes along with Pettijohn's nutritional cleanse.

But I've found something better: renewed joy in food.

CERT1NYC - Community Emergency Response Team  
Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst Parks Tasks Force  
The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

**State Senator Marty Golden**

Presents  
**2007 HALLOWEEN WALK & FAIR**

**Wednesday, October 31st**  
**3:30 to 8:30**  
**Owl's Head Park**  
68th St. & Colonial Rd.  
Haunted Walk - 4:30 to 6 pm & 7 to 8:30pm  
(Costume Contest 6pm to 7pm)

**FREE**  
The Haunted Walk  
The Fairytale Forest  
The Trick-Or-Treat Trail  
The Pumpkin Patch  
Costume Contest  
Magic Show  
Plus Surprises

**Also Available**  
Kid's Rides, Pony Rides, Wagon Rides,  
Face Painting, and More

**DRACULA'S FOOD COURT**  
open 3:30 to 8:00 pm

This event is produced entirely by volunteers dedicated to preserving the quality of life in our community. All proceeds and donations will go to CERT1NYC, the Community Emergency Response Team serving community boards 10 & 11.

*"A safe alternative to Trick-or-Treating"*  
For information call 718-238-6044



# Heat leads to death

## Hipsters fret as Williamsburg welcomes its first sports bar

By Chris Varmus  
for The Brooklyn Paper

On a recent Monday night, Williamsburg's newest sports bar was packed. Everyone in Mulholland's had one thing in common: a thirst for free beer.

Free beer may, in fact, be the only explanation for beefy fraternity types in football jerseys and the neighborhood's trademarked bespectacled hipster to be mingling; when I returned the following Wednesday, the bar had lost the grandeur of its opening and was nearly empty.

Far from the energetic nights that Billyburg is known for, Mulholland's felt more like a bar in a strip mall.

But Sean Mulholland, who owns the watering hole along with his brother Bill, insisted that the neighborhood's chic, young residents are really "closet sports fans."

The Mulholland brothers spent years working in bars, clubs and restaurants — most recently Eugene, a glossy lounge in Manhattan — and had been looking to buy their own spot for the past two years.

Although they initially looked at Manhattan's Lower East Side, Williamsburg's cheaper rents and less commercial vibe won them over.

"We just fell in love with the neighborhood," said Sean. "It's like a small town — everyone's really



### NIGHTLIFE

Mulholland's (312 Grand St. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg) is open Monday through Tuesday 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday 4 p.m.-a.m. and Sunday noon-2 a.m. For information, call (718) 486-3473.

Suds 'n' buds: Forget the artists' lofts. Some local frat houses will overtake Billyburg with the arrival of Mulholland's, a frat house bar that recently arrived in the heavily-trafficked Grand Street corridor.

sweet. It's almost like there's a Midwest feel, which we think is awesome!" Local residents might quibble with

his assertion that they're akin to Midwesterners, but the Grand Street corridor is quickly becoming more high-end, and therefore more open to a

variety range of nightlife options. The brothers have made it a life goal to never have a job where they can't wear jeans and T-shirts ("I

don't own a suit," Sean proudly proclaimed, but they do worry that they may not be cool enough for their new surroundings. To remedy this, Sean is open to the idea of using the digital screens to display photography or other artwork.

Photography is my hobby, my obsession, my compulsion," he said. "Sports pay the bills, but we like a lot of different stuff."

Still, locals are hesitant to put down their cans of Pabst and busk in the glow of plasma televisions.

Is this what I can attribute the growing number of cargo shorts and ball caps on the L train to? "wondered Holly Margulies, a neighborhood resident. "And does this mean there will be sorority girls pounding Bloody Marys at the Lodge during my brunch?"

Another neighborhood resident, Michael Porsche, who fits the bill of both emaciated hipster and sports fan, said he thought the place was great, and looked forward to watching his beloved Boston Red Sox at Mulholland's.

"I've been waiting two years for a real sports bar to open up in Williamsburg," he told us. "I hope they're here for good."

That should be music to the ears of Sean Mulholland, who doesn't have much patience for the neighborhood's elitist crowd.

"We serve drinks," he said. "We don't care cancer."

As a sect on the popular neighborhood block Williams-borough's Law, a set of posted rules the brothers intended to be quickly adopted (but which seems to have backfired). The board's users called the spot, "where the Upper East Side goes to get some drinks in Brooklyn."

As an olive branch of sorts, the bar will be offering free beer on Mondays from 7 to 11 p.m. The questions now will be who they're enjoying it?

## Lady sings

Beginning on Oct. 25, Brooklyn will have the blues. But if you ask Bearreedy Reddy, the organizer of the second "Big Eyed Blues Festival," that's not a bad thing.

"Blues doesn't have to be sad," Reddy told GO Brooklyn.

"Blues is about life."

Reddy's festival, which began as a one-night event last year, has grown by leaps and bounds. Much like the Brooklyn blues scene itself, the festival has added with talent and clubs in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill to its roster and will take place over four nights, each with its own theme.

Opening night features "Ladies Singing the Blues" with vocalists Reddy, performing alongside singers Pat Tandy and teen chanteuse Melanie B. Charles (pictured) at Bed-Stuy's Petit Bassam. Additionally, there will be musical history lessons on the roots of the blues and youth workshops for aspiring musicians; Reddy wants to ensure another generation of blues artists is nurtured in this borough.

"I am a champion for the blues," she said. "I wanted to create a place for people who love the blues, so they don't have to leave Brooklyn to hear it." And, with only a year's start, that's exactly what she's doing.

"The Big Eyed Blues Festival" will begin at 7 p.m. on Oct. 25 at Petit Bassam (393 Lewis Ave. at Macdonough Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant). Tickets are \$20 and include food. For a full schedule and ticket information, call (718) 919-0697 or visit [www.bigeyedbluesfestival.com](http://www.bigeyedbluesfestival.com).

—Adam Rath

## BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara V. Curran

### BAY RIDGE

#### Goodfellas

9606 Third Ave., at 96th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 834-6442.  
Oct. 28: Closed. 9 p.m. Friday, with two-drink minimum.

#### The Salty Dog

7509 Third Ave., at 75th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 228-9260. [www.saltydogbar.com](http://www.saltydogbar.com).  
Wednesday: Karaoke Night. 9 p.m. FREE. Thursday: Live music. 9:30 p.m. FREE.

#### The Wicked Monk

8415 Fifth Ave., at 84th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0607. [www.wickedmonk.com](http://www.wickedmonk.com).  
Oct. 20: Dog Voices. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 21: Rainbow Dash. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 22: 24 Seven. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 23: The Kinky. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 24: Halloween Party with Holla Back and Shadown. 8 p.m. \$5.

### BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

#### Food 4 Thought

445 Meade Gervay Blvd. at Macdonough Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 443-1160.  
Saturdays: Open mic. 9 p.m. \$5. Tuesdays: Philosophically Plat. Tuesday open discussion. 8 p.m. Wednesday: Wednesday. Dance Night. 9 p.m. \$5. Friday: Ladies Lounge. 9 p.m. FREE.

### BOERUM HILL

#### Hank's Saloon

46 Third Ave., at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 425-8003. [www.excellent.com/hankssaloon](http://www.excellent.com/hankssaloon).  
Sundays: Sean Karaoke and the New Jack. 10 p.m. FREE. Monday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Wednesday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Thursday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Friday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Saturday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Monday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Tuesday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Wednesday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Thursday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Friday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Saturday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE.

### BRIGHTON BEACH

#### National Restaurant

273 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach, (718) 446-1225. [www.national.com](http://www.national.com).  
Saturdays: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Sunday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Monday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Tuesday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Wednesday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Thursday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Friday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Saturday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Sunday: Live music. 9 p.m. \$5.

### BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

#### Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave., at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-0069. [www.magneticfield.com](http://www.magneticfield.com).  
Oct. 20: CMJ Music Marathon featuring The Eels, Mauds, and The Hazy Lessons. 7:30 p.m. \$5. Oct. 21: Girl Friday presents The Silks. 9 p.m. FREE. Oct. 22: Annuals. 7:30 p.m. \$5. Oct. 23: Talent LTD presents Fun Da. 9 p.m. FREE. Oct. 24: Live band Karaoke. 8 p.m. FREE. Oct. 25: Dave Flowers presents The Grip Weeds. 9 p.m. \$5.

### CLINTON HILL

#### Five Spot Restaurant

459 Myrtle Ave., at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0002. [www.fivespotrestaurant.com](http://www.fivespotrestaurant.com).  
Saturdays: DJ Ali. 6 p.m. FREE. Mondays: 8PM Open. Tuesdays: DJ Ali. 6 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: 5 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: DJ Ali. 6 p.m. FREE. Fridays: DJ Ali. 6 p.m. FREE. Saturdays: DJ Ali. 6 p.m. FREE. Sundays: DJ Ali. 6 p.m. FREE.

### Grand Dakar Cafe

285 Grand St. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 268-8900. [www.granddakar.com](http://www.granddakar.com).  
Saturdays: Rhonda Burrell. 7 p.m. jazz, soul, and blues. 8 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Tuesday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Wednesday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Thursday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Friday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE.

### Parlor Jazz

119 Monticelli Ave., at Myrtle Street in Clinton Hill, (718) 855-1981.

### DUMBO

#### Five Front

5 Front St. at West Street in DUMBO, (718) 425-5559. [www.fivefront.com](http://www.fivefront.com).  
Saturdays: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE.

### FLATBUSH

#### Vox Pop

1022 Cortlandt Rd. at Stratford Road in Flatbush, (718) 498-1200. [www.voxpop.net](http://www.voxpop.net).  
Saturdays: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Sunday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Monday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Tuesday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Wednesday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Thursday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Friday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Saturday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5. Sunday: Open mic. 7 p.m. FREE with two-drink minimum. 9 p.m. \$5.

### FORT GREENE

#### BAMCafe

30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 638-4100. [www.bamcafe.com](http://www.bamcafe.com).  
Saturdays: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Monday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Tuesday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Wednesday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Thursday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Friday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Saturday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE.

### GOASTOWN

#### The Yard

400 Canal St. at Bond Street in Gowanus, (718) 927-9177.  
Oct. 20: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 21: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 22: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 23: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 24: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 25: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 26: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 27: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 28: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 29: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5. Oct. 30: After the Fall. 9 p.m. \$5.

### GREENPOINT

#### Cup Europa

98 Monticelli Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5723. [www.cupeuropa.com](http://www.cupeuropa.com).  
Saturdays: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Sunday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Monday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Tuesday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Wednesday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Thursday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Friday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Saturday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE. Sunday: VIP Dance Party. 10 p.m. FREE.

### GREENWICH HEIGHTS

#### Kitchen Bar

687 South Ave. at 23rd Street in Greenwich Heights, (718) 499-5623. [www.kitchenbar.com](http://www.kitchenbar.com).  
Saturdays: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Monday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Tuesday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Wednesday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Thursday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Friday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Saturday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Sunday: Live music. 8 p.m. FREE.

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# The Brooklyn Paper

# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Appliance Repair

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• Washers & Dryers  
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